



Dear Family Member,

Today, your child heard the fairy tale “The Fisherman and His Wife,” a story about a man who catches a magic fish that grants the fisherman’s wife several wishes. In the coming days your child will hear two more fairy tales: “The Emperor’s New Clothes” and “Beauty and the Beast.” Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your child is learning about fairy tales.

### 1. “The Fisherman and His Wife”

Have your child share what s/he remembers about the fairy tale “The Fisherman and His Wife.” (A fisherman catches a flounder in the sea; the flounder tells the man he is actually an enchanted prince who has been turned into a flounder; the fisherman throws the flounder back; the fisherman’s wife asks why he didn’t first ask the flounder for a wish and sends him back to ask for several wishes; finally, the wife asks for too many things and the fish leaves them with what they had at the beginning of the story.) As your child shares what s/he remembers, fill in any gaps in the plot, and ask your child if s/he thinks there is a lesson to be learned from this fairy tale.

### 2. Draw and Write

Have your child draw and write a scene from any of the fairy tales s/he has heard (“The Fisherman and His Wife,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” and “Beauty and the Beast”). Then have him/her share his/her drawing and writing with you. Ask questions to keep your child using the vocabulary learned at school.

### 3. “The Emperor’s New Clothes”

Ask your child to retell the fairy tale “The Emperor’s New Clothes.” (An emperor finds great pleasure in dressing in different outfits; a strange weaver and tailor arrive and tell him they can make magical clothes, clothes only clever people can see; the emperor believes their story and hires them; everyone lies and says they can see the clothes in order to appear clever; a child finally states the truth.) Ask your child what they liked most about this fairy tale and if they think there is a lesson to be learned from this story.

### 4. Sayings and Phrases: Better Late Than Never

Your child will learn the saying “better late than never” in relation to the fairy tale “Beauty and the Beast.” Ask your child how this saying relates to the fairy tale. (When Beauty decides to stay in the palace of the beast, she asks the beast to grant her one

request: to say good-bye to her family. The beast grants her this request, but makes her promise to return before the full moon. Beauty doesn't return when promised, but does return to the palace just in time to save the beast's life.) Talk with your child about other situations where one might use the saying "better late than never."

## 5. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your child will be using and learning about. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your child.

- *enchanted*—The fisherman caught an enchanted fish that was able to grant him wishes.
- *admired*—The emperor admired himself in the mirror as he tried on his new clothes.
- *fearsome*—Beauty was terrified when she first laid eyes on the fearsome beast.
- *curious*—The beast told Beauty of all the curious events in the palace and how he was changed from a prince to a beast.

## 6. Read Aloud Each Day

It is very important that you read with your child every day. There should be time to read to your child and also time to listen to your child read to you. I have attached a list of recommended trade books related to fairy tales that may be found at the library.

Be sure to let your child know how much you enjoy hearing about what s/he has learned at school.



## Recommended Trade Books for Fairy Tales and Tall Tales

### Trade Book List

#### Original Anthologies

*Note: These are large anthologies of the original fairy tales to show students the volume of the work of the Brothers Grimm.*

1. *The Annotated Brothers Grimm (Bicentennial Edition)*, by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm (W.W. Norton and Co., 2012) ISBN 978-3836526722
2. *The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm (Taschen, 2011) ISBN 978-3836526722
3. *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm (CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2012) ISBN 978-1480270251

#### Fairy Tales

4. *Beauty and the Beast*, retold and illustrated by Jan Brett (Sandpiper, 1990) ISBN 978-0395557020
5. *Beauty and the Beast*, by Max Eilenberg and illustrated by Angela Barrett (Candlewick, 2006) ISBN 978-0763631604
6. *Beauty and the Beast*, illustrated by Jess Stockham (Child's Play International, Ltd., 2008) ISBN 978-1846431142
7. *Beauty and the Beast*, retold by Louie Stowell and illustrated by Victor Tavares (Usborne Publishing Ltd., 2007) ISBN 978-0794518554
8. *The Emperor's New Clothes: A Tale Set in China*, by Demi (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2000) ISBN 978-0689830686
9. *The Emperor's New Clothes*, by Hans Christian Andersen and illustrated by Virginia Lee Burton (Sandpiper, 2004) ISBN 978-0618344208
10. *The Emperor's New Clothes*, by Alison Edgson (Childs Play, 2007) ISBN 978-1846430206

11. *The Fisherman and His Wife*, by the Brothers Grimm and illustrated by John Howe (Creative Editions, 2001) ISBN 978-1568461403
12. *The Fisherman and His Wife*, retold and illustrated by Rachel Isadora (Putnam, 2008) ISBN 978-0399247712
13. *Liang and the Magic Paintbrush*, by Demi (Henry Holt and Co., 1988) ISBN 978-0805008012
14. *The Magic Fish*, by Freya Littledale and illustrated by Winslow Pinney Pels (Scholastic Inc., 1992) ISBN 978-0590411004
15. *A Tale of Two Parrots*, by Rashin Kheiriyeh (Enchanted Lion Books, 2013) ISBN 978-1592701308

### ***Tall Tales***

16. *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find John Henry*, by Scott Reynolds Nelson (National Geographic Children's Books, 2007) ISBN 978-1426300004
17. *American Tall Tales*, by Mary Pope Osborne and illustrated by Michael McCurdy (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1991) ISBN 978-0679800897
18. *The Blind Men and the Elephant*, retold by Karen Backstein and illustrated by Annie Mitra (Scholastic Inc., 1992) ISBN 978-0590907392
19. *The Bunyans*, by Audrey Wood and illustrated by David Shannon (Scholastic Inc., 2006) ISBN 978-0439812146
20. *Casey Jones*, adapted by Stephen Krensky and illustrated by Mark Schroder (First Avenue Editions, 2007) ISBN 978-0822564768
21. *Calamity Jane*, adapted by Stephen Krensky and illustrated by Lisa Carlson (First Avenue Editions, 2007) ISBN 978-0822564805
22. *The Cu Bird*, by Marjorie Herrmann (McGraw-Hill, 1997) ISBN 978-0844271637
23. *The Enchanted Moccasins and Other Native American Legends*, by Henry R. Schoolcraft (Dover Publications, Inc., 2007) ISBN 978-0486460147

24. *John Henry: An American Legend*, by Ezra Jack Keats (Dragonfly Books, 1987) ISBN 978-0394890524
25. *John Henry*, by Julius Lester and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Puffin Books, 1999) ISBN 978-0140566222
26. *John Henry*, by Stephen Krensky and illustrated by Mark Oldroyd (Lerner, 2007) ISBN 978-0822564775
27. *Luba and the Wren*, by Patricia Polacco (Puffin Books, 2002) ISBN 978-0698119222
28. *Mike Fink*, adapted by Stephen Krensky and illustrated by Jeni Reeves (First Avenue Editions, 2007) ISBN 978-0822564782
29. *Mike Fink*, retold and illustrated by Steven Kellogg (HarperCollins, 1998) ISBN 978-0688135775
30. *Paul Bunyan*, retold and illustrated by Steven Kellogg (HarperCollins, 1985) ISBN 978-0688058005
31. *Paul Bunyan vs. Hals Halson: The Giant Lumberjack Challenge*, by Teresa Bateman and illustrated by C.B. Canga (Albert Whitman & Company, 2011) ISBN 978-0807563670
32. *Pecos Bill*, by Eric Blair and illustrated by Micah Chambers-Goldberg (Picture Window Books, 2013) ISBN 978-1479518609
33. *Pecos Bill*, retold and illustrated by Steven Kellogg (HarperCollins, 1992) ISBN 978-0688099244
34. *Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett*, retold and illustrated by Steven Kellogg (HarperCollins, 1995) ISBN 978-0688140427
35. *Swamp Angel*, by Anne Isaacs and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Puffin, 2000) ISBN 978-0140559088
36. *Totem Tale*, by Deb Vanasse and illustrated by Erik Brooks (Sasquatch Books, 2006) ISBN 978-1570614392

## Websites

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### *Student Resource*

1. “Make a Story” Game  
<http://pbskids.org/electriccompany/#/Games/Whats>

### *Family Resources*

2. John Henry: The Steel Driving Man  
[http://www.ibiblio.org/john\\_henry/index.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/john_henry/index.html)
3. Present at the Creation: John Henry  
<http://www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/patc/johnhenry>
4. The Elements of a Fairy Tale  
<http://www.surfturk.com/mythology/fairytaleelements.html>
5. Origins of Paul Bunyan Story  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/topics/bunyan>
6. The True Story of John Henry  
<http://www.wvculture.org/history/africanamericans/henryjohn02.htm>

### *Audio with video*

7. “The Ballad of John Henry,” by Harry Belafonte  
<http://youtu.be/g6vcvYJCKic>
8. “Casey Jones,” by Johnny Cash  
<http://youtu.be/mJCiPI-V6h8>