

## **DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CULTURAL SKILLS USING ENGLISH FAIRY TALES**

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### **Abstract**

This article discusses the use of English fairy tales in fostering students' cultural skills. It is an effective method that not only develops language abilities but also introduces children to the cultural values of English-speaking countries.

**Keywords:** cultural skills development, traditions, customs, similarities, differences, morals, reading and retelling methods, mechanical memory, associative memory, logical memory, communication skills.

### **Introduction**

The use of English fairy tales in developing students' cultural skills is an effective method that enhances language abilities while introducing children to the cultural values of English-speaking nations.

Through their plots, English fairy tales help children develop cultural skills. Students learn about the traditions, customs, and daily lives of English-speaking peoples. For example, the tale Goldilocks and the Three Bears introduces children to the concept of British teatime and family values.

Comparing English fairy tales with folk tales from their own country helps children recognize cultural similarities and differences. For instance, Cinderella from the English fairy tale Cinderella and Zumrad and Qimmat from Uzbek folklore share common traits but differ in cultural context.

English fairy tales, like any folk literature, carry moral lessons, teaching kindness, honesty, and justice. For example, The Boy Who Cried Wolf teaches children about the consequences of lying. Reading and discussing fairy tales help students memorize new words and expressions in context while also developing oral speech skills. Some effective methods include:

Reading and retelling

Role-playing and dramatization

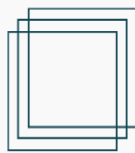
Comparative analysis

Discussion of moral lessons

Creating original fairy tales

These methods contribute to memory development, speech skills, deeper character analysis, cross-cultural comparison, creativity, and writing abilities.

1. Memory Development



Fairy tales contain repetitive elements, rhymes, and predictable plots, which aid in information retention.

**Mechanical memory:** Frequent phrase repetitions (e.g., in *The Three Little Pigs* – "Not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!") help students memorize expressions.

**Associative memory:** Linking words with visual and narrative images makes memorization more natural.

**Logical memory:** Students learn to structure events sequentially, improving their storytelling skills.

## 2. Speech Development

English fairy tales help students master proper intonation, pronunciation, and grammatical structures.

**Pronunciation improvement:** Repeating dialogues enhances articulation. For example, in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, characters speak in different tones (Papa Bear – deep, Mama Bear – medium, Baby Bear – high).

**Vocabulary expansion:** Fairy tales include everyday words and phrases that are easy to remember.

**Coherent speech development:** Retelling fairy tales teaches students to express thoughts in sequence.

**Communication skills:** Role-playing fairy tales encourages students to interact using English.

## Memory and Speech Development Techniques

Reading and retelling through illustrations

Role-playing and dramatization

Memorizing rhyming phrases

Creating alternative endings for fairy tales

Discussing the moral of the stories

Using English fairy tales in education makes language learning engaging and effective, helping children remember information better and express their thoughts more freely.

Developing Mechanical Memory through English Fairy Tales. Mechanical memory develops through repeated exposure to phrases, rhymes, and story elements.

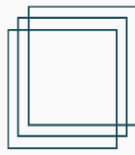
1. Repetitive Phrases and Structures. Certain fairy tales contain recurring expressions that help students memorize words and phrases automatically.

*The Three Little Pigs*: "Not by the hair on my chinny chin chin!"

*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*: "This porridge is too hot... This porridge is too cold... This porridge is just right."

*The Gingerbread Man*: "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

2. Rhymes and Repetition in Fairy Tales and Poems. Rhyming tales enhance memorization due to the musicality of language.



Humpty Dumpty

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.”

Jack and Jill

“Jack and Jill went up the hill,  
To fetch a pail of water.”

Rhymes reinforce pronunciation and word order.

3. Role-playing and Dramatization. Students act out dialogues and scenes from fairy tales, reinforcing speech patterns:

Dramatizing Little Red Riding Hood – Repeating the phrase “What big eyes you have!” helps students memorize grammatical structures.

Playing out dialogues from The Three Billy Goats Gruff – “Who’s that trip-trapping over my bridge?” helps reinforce memory through repetition.

4. Games and Exercises for Mechanical Memory Development.

“Echo game” – The teacher or audio recording says a phrase, and students repeat it like an echo.

“Missing words” – Students listen to a familiar fairy tale and fill in the missing words.

“Chained Storytelling” – Students take turns adding a memorized phrase to the story.

English fairy tales also enhance students’ creative abilities and writing skills. Here are some assignments to use in lessons:

1. Inventing Alternative Endings

Task: “What if Cinderella never lost her slipper?”

Example: Students write a new ending for Cinderella where the prince recognizes her in a different way.

2. Writing a Fairy Tale Using Given Words

Students receive a word list (e.g., castle, dragon, magic wand, brave knight) and must create a story incorporating them.

3. Story Continuation

The teacher starts a story: "Once upon a time, there was a little boy who found a mysterious key...». Students take turns adding one sentence at a time.

4. Changing Perspectives

Students rewrite a fairy tale from a secondary character’s point of view.

Example: "Tell the story of The Three Little Pigs from the Wolf’s perspective."

5. Creating Original Characters

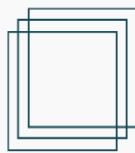
Task: Invent a new character and describe how they would change a famous fairy tale.

Example: "What if Jack from Jack and the Beanstalk had a wizard friend?"

6. Illustrated Comics and Fairy Tale Newspapers

Students create comics based on fairy tales, adding speech bubbles.

Example: "Fairy Tale Times" – A newspaper featuring fairy tale news, like: "Three Pigs Build Houses: Which One Will Stand?"



## 7. Writing Rhymed Stories

Students compose short fairy tales in rhyme.

Example:

"In a land so far away,  
Lived a cat who loved to play."

These tasks develop creativity, writing skills, and make learning English engaging and motivating!

## Conclusion

English fairy tales are not just a tool for language learning but also a powerful educational resource that helps students understand other cultures and develop personal values.

Fairy tales are great and valuable source for the English language lessons. They are fun, enjoyable and short. With the help of fairy tales children learn different language aspects: grammar, new vocabulary, values and in addition to that, fairy tales can influence positively on children's interest in books.

There are a lot of methods for using English fairy tales and some of them crucially effective. Such as:

Reading and retelling

Role-playing

Comparative analysis

Discussion of morals

Creating original fairy tales

These methods enhance students' memory and speaking skills, help them connect emotionally with characters, compare English and native tales, and develop creative writing abilities. They naturally develop mechanical memory, making new English words and expressions stick in students' minds.

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