RETELLING AND ANALYZING STORIES

The Little Mermaid

Learning objectives

• Express and develop ideas through collaborative discussion.
• Summarize a written text, read it aloud, and determine the theme of the story, drama, or poem.
• Explain how scenes fit together to provide smooth transitions and how they form the fundamental structure of a story, drama, or poem.
• Develop character analyzing skills.
• Compare and contrast the themes, genres, topics, and pattern of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature.
• Demonstrate an understanding of figurative language.

Setting the scene

• Read the story The Little Mermaid to the class.
• Discuss the key details of the story with the students.
• Discuss and identify the characteristics of the fairytale and its genre.
• Which parts of the story conjure visual interpretation? What makes the story flow?

Building the story

Ask the students to work in teams. Have them brainstorm ideas and then create a storyboard for a three- or five-scene story, starting with “Once upon a time...”

Here are some key scene suggestions:
• The Sea King’s palace with the mermaids.
• The prince’s boat is wrecked in the storm.
• The mermaid saves the prince from drowning.
• The Sea Witch gives the mermaid a magic potion that will transform her into a human being.
• The prince marries the mermaid (or someone else).

Reflecting

These questions are designed to spark and encourage reflection:

• How are you identifying the characteristics of each genre, and what are they?
• What would your single favorite scene be? What does that scene tell us?
• What would come before and after your favorite scene?

Common Core Standards

Speaking and Listening: 2-5.1
2-5.2
Reading for Literature: 2-5.2
2-5.5
2-5.9
Language: 2-5.5
Writing: 2-5.3
Sharing and documenting
Ask the students to focus on the fairytale genre and character analysis when writing a summary of the story.

Sample solution

1. 
2. 
3.

Extending
• Many fairytales have happy endings, some have sad endings. Hans Christian Andersen's stories often have sad endings. Invite the students to change the ending of the story. It must be recognizable but have a different outcome.

• Make a different version of The Little Mermaid with an unexpected twist. Work in groups and take turns to build scenes for the story without it coming to a conclusion.

• Use the StoryVisualizer software to design a flyer about your review of The Little Mermaid. Use the flyer to invite members of other classes to your presentation of the review.

THE LITTLE
MERMAID

Come and listen to our book review!