A Better Ending

Learning objectives

• Identify and describe characters, settings, and major events in a story using key details
• Construct a conclusion, making use of transitional words and phrases and sensory detail to convey characters' experiences and events
• Gather and interpret information from non-fictional texts
• Explain how specific aspects of a story contribute to the mood, character, or setting
• Distinguish between formal and informal language when speaking and writing
• Retell a fairy tale with unique adaptations

Setting the scene

Fairy tales can evolve over time and be adapted for different audiences. For instance, “The Frog Prince” by The Brothers Grimm has been adapted into many different versions, including some that are silly, have different characters, and even have different endings.

Have students work in teams to research a fairy tale which has an ending they want to change. Depending on the fairy tale, they may research answers to questions, such as: Why did the author choose this ending? How did audiences respond to the ending? Are there other versions of the fairy tale with different endings?

Building the story

Ask the students to continue to work in teams. Have them brainstorm ideas and then create a storyboard for a three or five scene reworking of the original fairy tale but with an alternate ending. Students may choose a mood or use the mood spinner to help determine the kind of ending.

Reflecting, sharing, and documenting

Have the students use the StoryVisualizer software to document their stories and share with the class:

• How does your ending differ from the original ending?
• Why did you change the ending?
• How is the mood of the story altered by the ending you chose?