FAIRY TALE GENRE

Two Sides to Every Story

Learning objectives
- Develop character analyzing skills
- Use specific character traits, good and evil, as influences in a story
- Express individual ideas while building on others through collaborative discussions
- Produce a specific form of writing, an interview, to demonstrate the importance of character traits
- Distinguish between formal and informal language when speaking and writing
- Retell classic fairy tales with unique adaptations
- Compare and contrast versions of fairy tales

Setting the scene
Fairy tales often involve clearly good and evil characters. The evil characters are called villains. But in real life people are complex, and perhaps the situation is not always as clear as it seems. Are Cinderella's stepsisters misunderstood? Hansel and Gretel meet a witch; is she just having a bad morning? Does Little Red Riding Hood's grandma actually ask the wolf to step in for her while she goes on vacation?

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 drama retelling the villain's version of a fairy tale of their choosing. Ask them to consider the villain's character traits, if he/she has been portrayed accurately in the classic version, and how he/she feels about it.

Reflecting, sharing, and documenting
Have the students use the StoryVisualizer software to document their stories. Encourage students to write an interview with the villainous character telling his/her version of the story to the press and public; it may be necessary to show or provide the students with examples of interviews:

- What evidence does the villain give to support his/her story?
- Why should the public believe him/her?
- How are the other characters portrayed in the villain's version?

Common Core Standards
- Speaking and Listening: 2-5.1
- Reading for Literature: 2-5.3
- Language: 2-5.1
- Writing: 2-5.3

DID YOU NOTICE?
Ask students to explain how they incorporate character traits into their stories. Do they have an understanding of the importance of character traits? Document their responses.

Sample model:
See "Constructopedia" for larger image.