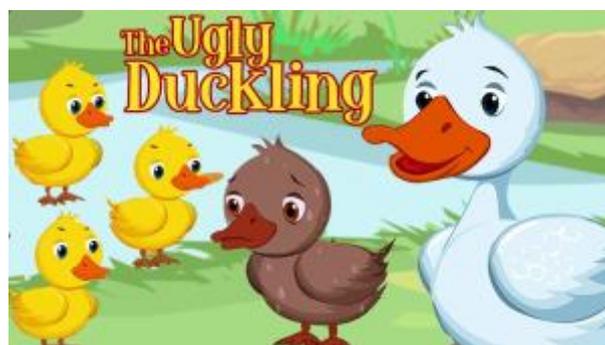




Tell a Fairy Tale Day 2021



Today we are going to have a happily ever after kind of day. It's National Tell A Fairy Tale Day!

Before the days of the telephone, television, books and even the internet we had story tellers. These were people that told histories, myths, and legend around the fire. Now we have these written down and have become known, the world over, as fairy tales.

Some of these fairy tales were written to help teach children something or show them how to behave, although some did have a basis in truth!

For example, some believe the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is inspired by the real-life of Margarete von Waldeck, the daughter of the 16th century Count of Waldeck. The area of Germany where the family lived was known for mining. Some of the tunnels were so tight they had to use children – or small people such as dwarfs – to work the mines.

Margarete's beauty is well documented, and she had a stepmother who sent her away. She fell in love with a prince but mysteriously died before she could have her happily ever after.

As the stories evolved, they took on a more magical quality with fictional characters such as fairies, giants, mermaids and gnomes, and sometimes gruesome story plots.

The brothers Grimm collected and published some of the more well-known tales we are familiar with today. Jakob and his brother Wilhelm together set out on a quest to preserve these tales at a time in history when a tradition of oral storytelling was fading.

Rumpelstiltskin is one of the tales they collected. There were several versions, and the little man went by many names in different parts of Europe. From Trit-a-trot in Ireland to Whuppity Stoorie in Scotland, Rumpelstiltskin was one difficult man to identify.

Hans Christian Andersen, first published in 1829, brought to us written versions of the *Princess and the Pea*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Mermaid* and many more. Where Grimm's tales could take on a darker cast and unmistakably written with adults in mind, Andersen's stories are sweet and warm.



Below are three different activities to, hopefully, engage your child. I have chosen these as they are a popular set of books that children can often access by themselves. For younger children I have given a range of activities for you to choose from all about books and stories.

1. Rainbow Magic- based on a series of stories about fairies
2. Beast Quest- based on a series of all about beasts and magic

3. A variety of activities that can be applied to lots of different books for children of all ages

Rainbow Magic



Rainspell Island is where Fairies of all shapes and types live. If you have not read any of their books, I am sure you would enjoy them. Ask us in school if you can borrow a copy of one of them. Or some are available on the Epic website

Have any of you been on a ferry? or to an island? How did you feel when you had that first glimpse of land and how it feels to be going on holiday and staying somewhere new?

What words can you think of to describe the excitement, comparing their experience to that of Kirsty and Rachel as they near Rainspell for the first time

What can you hear? The sound of seagulls, the waves rippling along the side of the ferry, the chug of the engine as they approach the white cliffs. What can you feel? The cool breeze of the wind, the warmth of the sun on their face, etc.

Have a go at writing your own Fairy story, you can use the following templates to help you

[Story writing template](#)

Once you have created your template, can you write your own story? Could you perform it?

We would love to see or hear your stories!

Beast Quest



Fight the beasts; fear the magic

We have beast quest books in school if you would like to try any of them.

An addictive and all-engaging journey into the fantasy world of Avantia complete with wizards, heroes, magic and, of course, an array of deadly beasts to overcome! The ever popular Beast Quest books provide a wonderful stimulus for reading and writing in all shapes and forms; narrative, non-fiction, drama and poetry. The first series of books follows the journey of two unlikely heroes – Tom, a seemingly ordinary boy from the village of Errinel, and his new-found friend, the orphan Elenna – in a quest to save the kingdom of Avantia from the Dark Wizard, Malvel. Aided by their trusted companions, a wolf named Silver and Tom's horse Storm, the two children are charged with the unenviable task of freeing the six protectors of the kingdom from an evil spell. It just so happens that the protectors, now turned destroyers, are six terrifying beasts: a sea serpent, mountain giant, horse-man, snow monster, flame bird and the first beast we are introduced to – Ferno, the Fire Dragon. As Tom and Elenna travel through the land of Avantia, we travel with them across the first series of six books encountering a new beast with all its particular perils and dangers in each. As the quest continues the Defenders become our friends and we find out more about Tom's missing father, Taladon the Swift, the Ancient Scripts of the kingdom and the history between the battling wizards. It's an enticing adventure which grips young readers and draws them into this exciting, addictive and magical world. We start with Tom's accidental recruitment as a knight for the realm and his first beast challenge against Ferno the Fire Dragon.

Have a go at writing your own Beast Quest story, you can use the following templates to help you

[Story writing template](#)

Once you have created your template, can you write your own story? Could you perform it?

We would love to see or hear your stories!

Take a book, any book, but preferably a favourite, and bring it to life for a day of creative play with these story book activities.

Puppets are a perfect way to bring a favourite story to life: take a look at these inspiring ideas for [making puppets with children](#).

You could also use [homemade story stones](#) to tell a tale.

[Build a den](#) and you can use it as the launch pad to act out the story you have been reading.

Try these [dressing up ideas](#) to make simple, playful costumes, or [make a mask](#) to turn yourself into one of the characters.

Or what about focusing on the food in your story, and using that as a way to recreate a scene ~ like our [Mad Hatter's Tea Party](#)?

A favourite story book activity of ours is to build a small world, where we can act out the tale with puppets, adding twists and turns of our own.

Try these [small world activities](#) or this [fairy land](#) for ideas to get you started.

Use my [story spinner printable](#) to write your own tales.