

Turkey embarks on cultural mission to preserve its fairy tales

Level: Elementary – Teacher’s notes

Article summary: A new project aims to collect all of Turkey’s fairy tales for everybody to read.

Time: Up to 90 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

8. *villain*
9. *wonder*
10. *reason*
11. *patient*
12. *values*

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

1. *wonder*
2. *patient*
3. *villain*
4. *values*
5. *fairy*
6. *future generations*

1. Warmer

Working with a partner, students write the titles of as many fairy tales as they can think of in five minutes. Allow them to write the titles in English or in their own language. Then give them time to look up the English titles of any they do not know before they share what they have written with the other students. How many different fairy tales can your students come up with as a group? If they need help, you could give them the following fairy tales to start them off:

- *Cinderella*
- *Aladdin*
- *Hansel and Gretel*

2. Key words

- a. Students read the words in the box and match them to the definitions below. Tell them to scan the article and underline the words as they find them. This will help them check their answers as well as see how the words are used in context.

Key:

1. *curse*
2. *fairy*
3. *demon*
4. *sultan*
5. *influence*
6. *future generations*
7. *index*

3. Comprehension check

Students read the statements and decide whether they are true or false according to what they have read in the text. If they think a statement is false, they should try to correct it in writing or at least be prepared to say why.

Key:

1. *T*
2. *F Turkish fairy tales come from a magical mountain called Kaf Dağı.*
3. *T*
4. *T*
5. *F There are four types: animal tales, magical or extraordinary tales, realistic tales and funny tales.*
6. *F They have already collected over three thousand stories.*
7. *T*
8. *T*

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4. Using key language

Ask students to work in small groups or with a partner to scan the article and write words from the article into the table under the four categories.

Key:

people	animals	magical creatures and other magical things	places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>hairdresser</i> • <i>princes</i> • <i>girls</i> • <i>sultans</i> • <i>slaves</i> • <i>farmers</i> • <i>the Brothers Grimm</i> • <i>moors</i> • <i>servants</i> • <i>Jews</i> • <i>men</i> • <i>wives</i> • <i>enemies</i> • <i>young woman</i> • <i>heroes</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>mouse</i> • <i>donkey</i> • <i>tortoise</i> • <i>wild horses</i> • <i>small bird</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kaf Dađi mountain</i> • <i>witches</i> • <i>magical fruits: oranges, apples & pomegranates</i> • <i>mirrors</i> • <i>fairies</i> • <i>demons</i> • <i>Fairyland</i> • <i>magic carpets</i> • <i>talking birds and animals</i> • <i>Simurgh bird</i> • <i>dragons</i> • <i>giants</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the Caucasus mountains</i> • <i>the Black Sea</i> • <i>the Caspian Sea</i> • <i>Anatolian plateau</i> • <i>Turkey</i> • <i>the Atatürk Cultural Centre</i> • <i>beautiful gardens</i>

Extension or homework task

Students write personalized example sentences for any of the words that they would like to learn to integrate into their active vocabulary. Ask them to make the sentences relevant to their own lives if possible as this will make it easier for them to remember the language and use it correctly in the future.

5. Discussion

Students discuss the questions that are directly related to the topic of the article. Example answers are given to help students come up with similar ones of their own.

6. In your own words

Students work with a partner and follow the instructions on the worksheet. First, they choose a fairy tale that has a special meaning to them and make notes in the box to summarize the main events, characters and setting. Then they retell the story to other students, starting in the way of all good fairy tales with the words *Once upon a time*.