

UNIT 22 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming to Starlight Bookstore for our latest literature presentation. My name is Charlene Dennis, and tonight I'll discuss the advantages of reading fairy tales to children.

Starting to read at an early age has positive benefits all around. It's a nice bonding experience for parents and children, and an educational tool from the very beginning. One of the things that unites cultures in terms of literature is fairy tales. A fairy tale is any short story with an interesting, often fantastical cast of characters that can include princesses, giants, talking animals, and many more that can spark the imagination.

Any type of reading or storytelling helps develop a love of creativity in children. Many adults have grown up hearing fairy tales themselves, so they open the door for adults to recreate their own childhoods and share them with their kids. But fairy tales offer a lot of other benefits, too.

Fairy tales encourage children to develop their imagination. By reading tales about talking bears or a brave girl with a red cape in the forest, it enriches children's imagination and makes them curious. During their playtime alone or with other kids, they might imagine they themselves are a talking bear or another imaginary creature. This helps children understand that in their imagination, there are no limits to what is possible.

Reading fairy tales also leads to being a good storyteller, and everyone loves someone with a good story. Fairy tales always have a beginning, middle, and end. There is usually a conflict somewhere in the middle that is resolved in one way or another by the end. Readers take in this story structure and then tell their own tales, whether fiction or nonfiction, based on it.

An important function of fairy tales is that they can teach the difference between right and wrong. For example in a well-known fairy tale called "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," a young boy is bored with his duties as shepherd and yells to the townspeople that a wolf is chasing his sheep. He laughs when they all come running, and see that there is no wolf.

But when a real wolf comes one day, and the boy shouts for help, no one believes him. Young readers may want to talk about the boy's behavior, and how it was wrong for him to lie.

Fairy tales bring people together. People who share a particular culture have probably grown up hearing similar stories. If we talked to different people in our culture, many of us would probably know the same stories. For that matter, fairy tales are not limited to any particular culture. You may find yourself abroad one day, looking to make new friends, and find that fairy tales are the one thing your childhoods share.