



# Grimm's Fairy Tales



*Retold from the classic originals  
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STERLING

New York / London

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## What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They

are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the stories from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the stories in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about these classic stories.

1. In some of the fairy tales, such as “The Boy Who Learned Fear,” the characters must perform difficult tasks. What do you think are some of the most difficult ones? Which of these tasks might you be able to complete? Which ones would you never even try?

2. In the story “The Worn-Out Dancing Shoes,” the king desperately wants to know how his daughters’ shoes have become so worn through from dancing. Why do you think he wants to know this so badly? If you were one of the princesses, would you want your secret to be found out? Why, or why not?

3. How is the story “Hansel and Grethel” similar to the story of “Little Brother and Little Sister?” How are the stories different? What is similar about the siblings’ relationships in both stories? What is different? What kind of relationship do you have with your siblings?

4. How does Cinderella’s life change when her stepmother and stepsisters come to live with her? What do you think her life was like before?

5. In the story “Briar Rose,” everyone in the castle falls asleep for many years because of a magic spell. What happens when the people in the castle finally wake up? If you had been asleep for that long, what is the first thing you would want to do when you woke up?

6. The miller’s daughter in “Rumpelstiltskin” has to give away the things she values most so the gnome will help her spin straw into gold. How does she feel about having to do this? Is there anything you own that you wouldn’t be

willing to give up, even if it meant you would be locked away forever?

7. If you were in the brothers' position in the story "The Golden Goose," would you share your food like Simon does, or would you keep it for yourself? Can you think of a time when you shared something? How did you feel after you shared?

8. In the story "The Brave Little Tailor," the tailor feels he is very lucky. Do you think it was just luck that helped the tailor succeed? Do you think you are a lucky person?

9. In some of the stories, the characters have magical helpers. How do they help the main characters? If you could have a magical friend, what would he or she be like?

10. Do you think the Grimm's fairy tales teach lessons? Are they also fun to read? Did you learn anything from reading these stories?