

Fairy Tales: Structure & Meaning

("Goblin Market")

- Timeless: indefinite and unspecified location and time
- Use of opposites: young/old; pretty/ugly; good/evil. Binaries that emphasize one term, simple morality.
- Hero: can have a hidden origin/identity that is discovered. Not always a member of privileged social class, which is not always a barrier.
- Magic: tool/part of everyday life. Not always the greatest power—e.g., love
- Bildungsroman rooted in fairy tales/Repetition-tests/challenges
- Children: treated like small adults. Most vulnerable so subject to violence/cruelty of world
- Characters are often flat/two-dimensional. Use of direct speech rather than omniscient character development
- Traditional gender roles