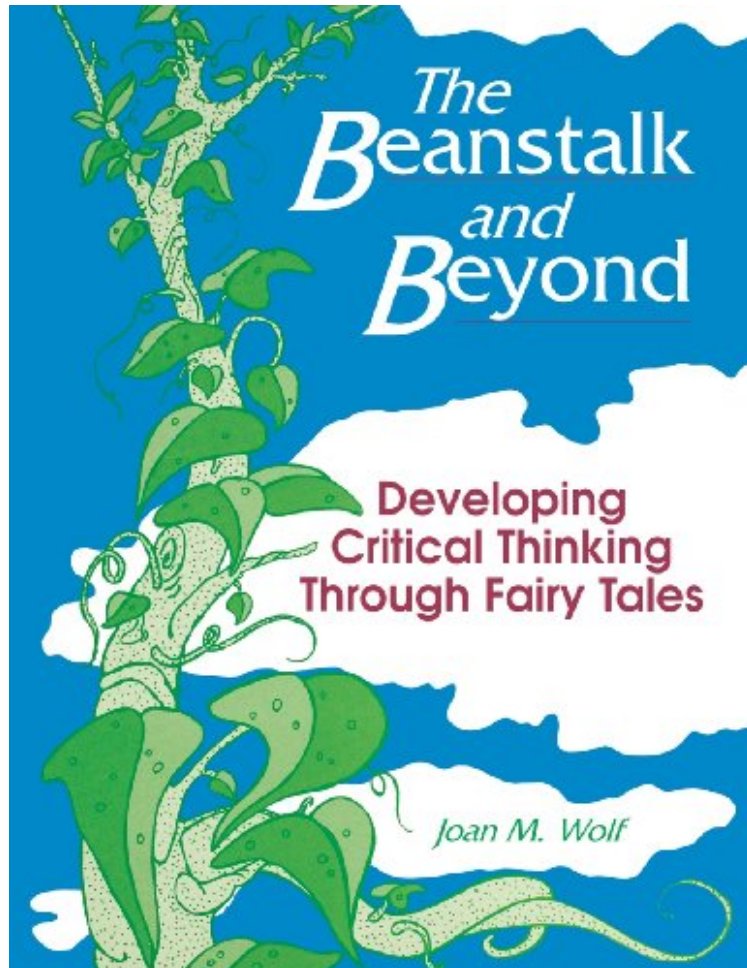


(Get free) The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales

The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales

Joan Wolf

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Joan Wolf : The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding teacher/librarian resource By Stephanie M. Green
The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales Joan M. Wolf has created a tool that will make learning with fairytales memorable for children of all ages and abilities. In her introduction she states "...this book is not just about the study of fairy tales. It is about experiencing the joys of creative writing and creative problem solving with students" The items needed to implement the lessons are basic things that can be found in every classroom which keeps teachers from having to spend more money on the supplies. In the copyright notice it does say that a library media specialist or teacher can photocopy from this book as long as it is used for one single school. The

notice also states that portions of the book (up to 15 pages) can be used for professional development in a single school. This book is a great addition to any professional collection of a library or classroom. While reading I found activities for my library, for teacher's classroom use, and for our gifted teachers. This book is user friendly and an easy read for anyone that wants to increase higher order thinking in their instruction. Chapter 1 is designed to get students excited about writing and studying fairy tales. This chapter is full of thought provoking questions like, "What do enchanted trees look like? Are they gentle-looking or fierce looking? What colors are their bark and leaves? What do they feel like to the touch? Do they have any kind of smell?" (p.10). That is just one of many discussion starters or journal prompts. There are two activities in this chapter that I absolutely love. One is a graffiti wall in which you post a question and students are invited to respond in graffiti style on the butcher paper wall. I am currently using this at my school in a man hallway and I have children of all ages (k-5) responding. The other activity has you placing a question about a fairy tale on each student's back. The students walk around and have people answer their question and the have to guess what the question is. Both activities get students involved and excited about fairy tales while they think critically and improve their question and answer skills. Chapter 2 takes a critical looks at characterization while allowing children to manipulate characters from a fairy tale. Students will change information about the character and then create resumes, employment ads, business cards, and even advice columns. At the end of the chapter students will even create their own fairy tale character after being asked a series of questions to get them thinking in the right direction. I couldn't help but think about how this could change our student's view of creative writing and problem solving. Chapter 3 works on the perspective and point of view of a story. Students will be asked to create talk shows, advertisements, news broadcasts, and persuasive speeches to prove that the villain in the fairy tale is actually innocent. I love this chapter because students are always fond of remakes of fairy tales where the villain tells their side of the story. This chapter helps students see that they can do their own remakes of fairy tales. I would love to create a school newspaper after studying fairy tales and fill it with the various remakes of the classic fairy tales. I think students would be so proud of their work. Chapter 4 is all about developing creative story skills while making up their own fairy tales. This really focuses on how to create fractured fairy tales by just changing a few things in the original story. It also discusses creating a fairy tale by starting at the end of a story and working to the beginning. I think Joan M. Wolf has created a dynamic resource for anyone that works with children. Examples of products are throughout the book so that anyone can easily teach these lessons and provide examples to learners. This could be used in book clubs about fairy tales, in public library summer reading programs, and any classroom in any part of the world. This is a must have for anyone who wants to increase critical thinking, creative writing, and questioning skills. The only thing I would have liked to see added to this book is basic rubrics for evaluating products. Most of the products created could not easily be graded and every teacher will want to put a grade on the hard work their students will do. A basic rubric for each product would have been a nice touch to help teachers save time. I think a CD of rubrics would have been even better so that teachers could easily go in and manipulate the basic rubric to meet their needs. Overall, this is an outstanding resource and worth every penny to purchase multiple copies.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Wonderful Help if your stuck with writer's block
By A Customer
After taking a class with Joan Wolf, I decided to read her book. The Beanstalk and Beyond is excellent book for writing ideas. It helps develop your imagination and gives you guidelines for writing stories. If you're a writer and you have writer's block, pick up a copy of this book for wonderful ideas and lots of fun!
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Use popular fairy tales and fairy-tale characters as springboards for learning, and help students develop problem-solving abilities and creative-writing skills. Adaptable to virtually any fairy tale and to a variety of learning environments and levels, these activities will challenge students to move beyond the simplistic study of tales to develop in-depth writing skills.

About the Author
JOAN M. WOLF is an elementary and middle school teacher at Valentine Hills Elementary School, Arden Hills, Minnesota