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# Letting Down Her Hair



Photo Credit: Baran Lotfollahi

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# Agenda



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02 Fairy Tale, Folk Tale, Wonder Tale & Myth

03 Categorization Methods

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# 01 Literary & Feminist Criticism

Literary Criticism is an analytical way of looking at literature that involves close reading, examination of themes, motifs, and other elements. There are many different perspectives, from which to conduct literary criticism.



Feminist criticism is concerned with "the ways in which literature (and other cultural productions) reinforce or undermine the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women" (Tyson 83).

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“...that in the history of folktale and fairy tale, women as storytellers have woven or spun their yarns, speaking at one level to a total culture, but at another... a sisterhood of readers who will understand the hidden language, the secret revelations of the tale (Haase 29).

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# 02 Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, Wonder Tales & Myth

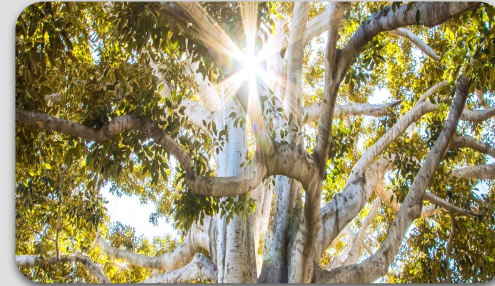
## The Question of Authenticity

Cross-pollination (cultural contact) and the implication of retellings (oral tradition) have had an incalculable amount of impact on what we call fairy tales.



### Folk Tales & Wonder Tales

- Entertain
- Provide Instruction



### Myths

- Explain Natural Phenomena
- Entertain
- Feature God/Gods



### Fairy Tales

- Literary in Nature
- Reinforce Societal Norms
- Endorse Nationalism

# 03 Categorization Methods

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“One faction comprises of literary folklorists, who have focused on folklore in and through literature. The other is composed of anthropological folklorists who have been committed to studying folklore in its cultural context.”  
(Ziolkowski)

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Systems that classify tales by story elements (Propp) or motifs (ATU) and sorts them into types based upon similarities and focus on the stories themselves, rather than the cultures that produced them:

- I. Vladimir Propp, *The Morphology of Fairytale*
- II. Aarne Thompson Uther Index (ATU Index)
  - i. *The Types of the Folk-Tale: A Classification and Bibliography. Antti Aarne's Verzeichnis der Märchentypen, translated and enlarged by Stith Thompson by Antti Aarne*
  - ii. *The Types of International Folktales: A Classification and Bibliography. Based on the system of Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson by Uther, Hans-Jörg*

# 04 Literary Fairy Tales

## Notable Fairy Tale Collectors, Compilers, and Editors

Charles Perrault  
(1628-1703)

- *Mother Goose*

Marie-Catherine  
d'Aulnoy (1650-1705)

- Contes de fées *Fairy Tales*
- Les Contes nouveaux ou les fées à la mode *New Tales, or the Fancy of the Fairies*

Jacob (1785–1863)  
and Wilhelm Grimm  
(1786–1859)

- Kinder- und Hausmärchen *Children's and Household Tales*

Hans Christian  
Andersen (1805-1875)

- Eventyr, fortalte for børn *Tales, Told for Children*
- Billedbog uden billeder *A Picture-book Without Pictures*
- Nye eventyr og historier *New Fairy Tales and Stories*

Andrew Lang (1844-  
1912)

- Fairy Books (25 of them)

Joseph Jacobs (1854-  
1916)

- The Fables of Aesop
- English Fairy Tales
- Celtic Fairy Tales
- Indian Fairy Tales
- The Book of Wonder Voyages
- Europa's Fairy Book

# 05 Following Red Riding Hood



- I. The story first appears in Egbert of Liège's *Fecunda ratis The Well-Laden Ship*
  - i. About a girl saved from wolf cubs (1022-1024)
  - ii. Contains elements vital to the story:
    - i. A girl in a red hood
    - ii. dangers of the woods
    - iii. potential consumption by wolf/wolves
- II. Perrault's *Le Petit chaperon rouge Little Red Riding Hood* (1697)
- III. *La Bête du Gévaudan The Beast of Gevaludan* (1764-1767)
- IV. *Rotkäppchen Red Riding Hood* (1812) Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

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“The modern fairy tale story, or wonder story, is a product of the Middle Ages” (Zipes).

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# 06 Other Fairy Tales in the Medieval World



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## Some Extant Fairy Tales

*Sir Lanval* (12<sup>th</sup> c)

*Sir Orfeo* (13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (14<sup>th</sup> c)

Cycles of Irish Story Telling  
(10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> c)

*The Mabinogion* (11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> c)

The Icelandic Sagas (13<sup>th</sup> c)



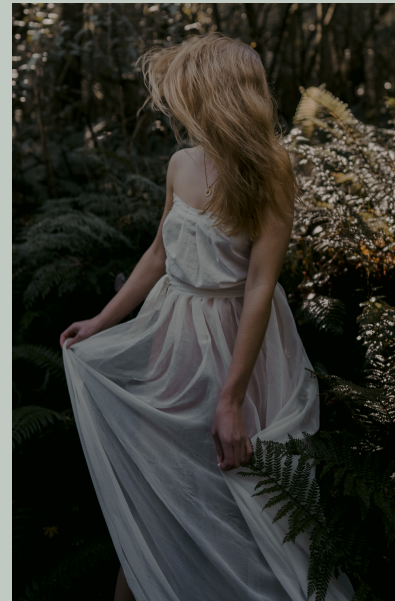
# 07 Assertive Women

Rhiannon of  
*The Mabinogion*



Alice Alinari

The Bride  
*Blue Beard*



Jessie McCall

The Sister  
*The Seven Swans*



Mimipic Photography

Rapunzel  
*Rapunzel*



Tamara Bellis

“There is, however, a less well-known ending to Little Red Cap (Grimm and Grimm 1963) that changes Grandmother from being a helpless old woman to an ingenious, independent woman. In this ending, either the initial wolf or another wolf tries to trick Little Red Cap and her grandmother, but the grandmother outsmarts him. She has Red pour water in which sausages have been boiled into a trough in front of the house. The greedy wolf then falls off the roof into the trough and is drowned” (Joy).

# 08 Contemporary Retellings

## I. Ellen Datlow/ Terry Windling

I. *Snow White, Blood Red*

II. *Ruby Slippers, Golden Tears*

III. *Black heart, Ivory Bones*

IV. *Silver Birch, Blood Moon*

## II. Jane Yolen

I. *Briar Rose*

## III. Angela Carter

I. *The Bloody Chamber*

II. *Angela Carter's Book of  
Fairy Tales*

