BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

FAIRY TALES

Yeh-Shen

The Toad Bridegroom





retold by Karen Phelps

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Fairy Tales
Level: J/18*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

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LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze story elements

Word Study
- Direct definitions

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Personification

Writer's Craft
- How to write a fairy tale

THEME CONNECTIONS
- **World Cultures**
- **Family**

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the stories on pages 4–5.
2. Read the fairy tales for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 13 and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a fairy tale.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own fairy tale.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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Yeh-Shen

The Toad Bridegroom

Two Fairy Tales from Asia

retold by Karen Phelps
illustrated by Tom Sperling and Pat Paris

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FAIRY TALES

What is a fairy tale?

A fairy tale is a story about long ago. A fairy tale usually has characters who are good, characters who are evil, and characters with magical powers. Even an animal or an object, such as a tree or rock, can be magical. Many fairy tales include kings, queens, princes, and princesses. Some of the tales have imaginary creatures such as dragons, fairies, giants, and ogres. Many of the tales have characters, objects, or events that appear or occur three times.

What is the purpose of a fairy tale?

A fairy tale focuses on a problem that at least one character needs to solve. The way the problem is solved lets the storyteller teach a lesson or point out values that are important to his or her culture. Fairy tales make people feel good, too, since the admirable characters almost always live happily . . . ever . . . after.



How do you read a fairy tale?

First, figure out who the "good guys" and "bad guys" are. Then try to predict how the good characters will be rewarded and how the evil characters will be punished. Finally, be prepared for some magical surprises along the way!

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Features of a Fairy Tale

- The tale is a type of fantasy, often about royalty.
- One character is helped by another.
- The tale has a happy ending.
- Often, people appear or events happen three times.
- The tale often features fantastic or magical creatures; some animals and objects can talk.
- A helper and/or a "bad guy" may have magical powers.

Who invented fairy tales?

People around the world told fairy tales for hundreds of years before the first written records were made. Once people were able to read fairy tales from many cultures, they were amazed at how similar some of the stories were. For example, Cinderella stories come from Egypt, Iceland, China, England, Korea, Russia, France, Vietnam, and dozens of other countries. By comparing the stories, we can learn about the places, history, and values that were important to each group of people.

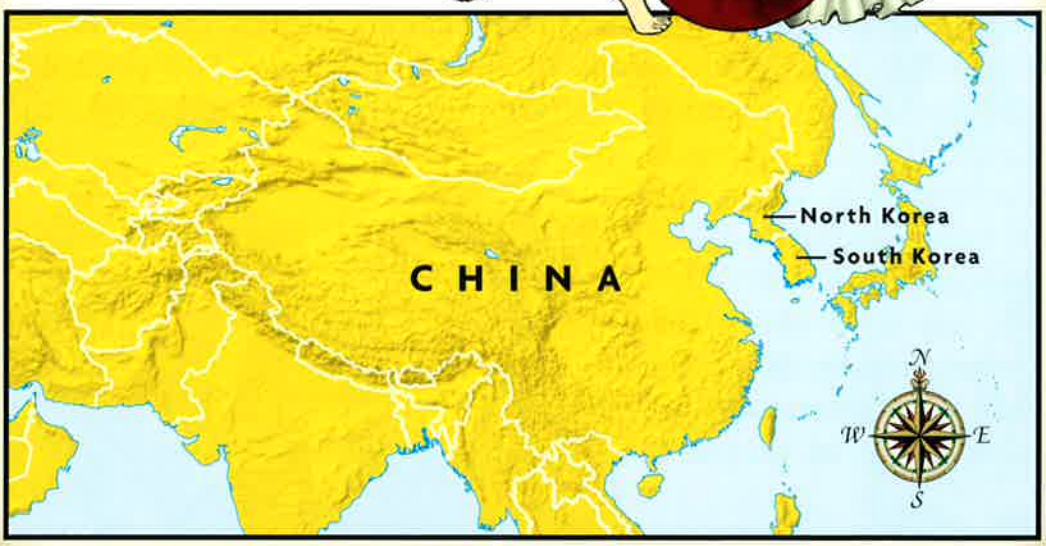


Origins of the FAIRY TALES

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Yeh-Shen: Do you know the story "Cinderella"? Cinderella is a poor girl, but she is a good person who, with the help of a little magic, is able to triumph over evil characters. There are hundreds of Cinderella stories from around the world, each with a unique telling that carries cultural information about the time and place the fairy tale was told. "Yeh-Shen" is one of the first recorded versions, written down in China around A.D. 900.





The Toad Bridegroom is one of many fairy tales from around the world that features a talking frog or toad that becomes a prince. Several elements of this version link it specifically to its culture of origin:

- The word **Korea** comes from the word **Koryo**, which means "land of high mountains and sparkling streams." There are many mountains, streams, and lakes in Korea. The fishing-lake setting would be familiar to this story's intended listeners.

- The theme of luck is central in "The Toad Bridegroom" and is an important part of Korean culture.

- Traditional Korean culture emphasizes close family ties and respectful treatment of elders. This helps explain why the youngest daughter agrees to marry the toad in the story. She wants to honor her father's wishes and keep bad luck away from their home.

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Tools Writers Use

Personification

Look at the word **personification** (per-sah-nuh-fih-KAY-shun). You will see the word **person** in it. **Personification** means "giving human characteristics to animals or objects." In the fairy tales you read, notice how the animals talk, think, and act as people do. Notice how animals are described as if they had human abilities. These are all examples of personification.

Yeh-Shen

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This is a story from China. The story is from long ago. Yeh-Shen lived in a mountain village. She thought she was a lucky girl. She lived in a big cave. The cave was high in the hills. Her father was an important man. He had two beautiful wives. Yeh-Shen's mother was the kindest wife. She was her father's favorite. Yeh-Shen spent her days helping her mother. At night, she sat by the fire. She listened to her father's tales.