

Deep Dark Fairy Tales and Folklore

Grades: 6th - 8th
Day (s) of Week: Friday
Time of Class: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET
Length of Class: 20 weeks
Semester: Fall & Winter
Tuition: \$400
High School Credit: .5 - English/Language Arts

Class Dates:

Fall 2021 Semester
October 8
October 15
October 22
October 29
November 5
November 12
November 19
NO CLASS November 26 (Thanksgiving)
December 3
December 10
December 17
Make Up: January 7

Winter 2022 Semester
January 14
January 21
January 28
February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25
March 4
March 11
March 18
Make Up: March 25

Instructor's Name: Abigail Brown
Instructor's Email: summertimestrawberries@yahoo.com
Instructor's Phone: (757) 812-2035
Office Hours: By Appointment

Description of Class:

In this middle school literature class, we'll be diving into the darker side of folk literature, studying world mythology (from Greek to West African to Japanese to Navajo) and world folklore (from fables to legends to fairy tales). Each week, students will be sent home with stories from around the world to read (including things like Greek myths, Brothers Grimm fairy tales, and various legends) and a related creative writing assignment.

Not all stories will be spooky but these are definitely not the Disney versions so be warned: some stories involve things like injury, death, and the supernatural. But if you're ready to read about monsters and heroes and magic then join us for a spectacular adventure!

Class Approach:

Each week we will focus on a different genre of folk literature (such as Creation Stories, Trickster Tales, or Grimms' Fairy Tales) and we will spend class time discussing the stories we read as homework that week.

Goals:

We'll learn what defines different folktale genres, what different motifs are employed in different stories and why, how this brand of literature fits in with the rest of the world of stories, and how to incorporate it into your own storytelling (perfect for aspiring writers!). We'll also be learning about the different cultures, places, people, and times these stories come from along the way.

Textbook:

The Odyssey (any translation though Robert Fagles or Robert Fitzgerald preferred)

Requirements:

Each student is responsible for attending the weekly classes, completing and submitting homework on time, and treating fellow students with respect.

Weekly Homework:

Weekly homework will include reading folk stories each week, working on various writing projects, and occasional other homework. Around 2-3 hours/week.

Homework Policy:

1. One week late homework will be accepted at half credit (unless otherwise approved).
2. No homework accepted after 1 week (unless otherwise approved).
3. If absent, it is up to the student/parent to obtain notes and any materials.

Grading Scale:

A: 100% - 90%

B: 89% - 80%
C: 79% - 70%
D: 69% - 60%
F: 59% - 0%

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Fall 2021

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction: What Are Myths & Folklore and Why Do We Study Them?
Week 2	Creation Stories
Week 3	Pourquoi Tales
Week 4	Pantheons
Week 5	Trickster Stories
Week 6	Flood Stories
Week 7	The End - Stories of the Apocalypse
Week 8	Hero Stories & Legends + The Odyssey: Part 1
Week 9	The Odyssey: Part 2
Week 10	The Odyssey: Part 3

Winter 2022

Week	Topic
Week 11	Introduction to New Semester & Fables
Week 12	Legends & Tall Tales
Week 13	Grimm's Fairy Tales
Week 14	Hans Christian Anderson's Fairy Tales
Week 15	Andrew Lang's Fairy Tales
Week 16	Other Fairy Tales: Part 1
Week 17	Other Fairy Tales: Part 2
Week 18	Other Folk Tales: Part 1
Week 19	Other Folk Tales: Part 2
Week 20	Comparing & Contrasting