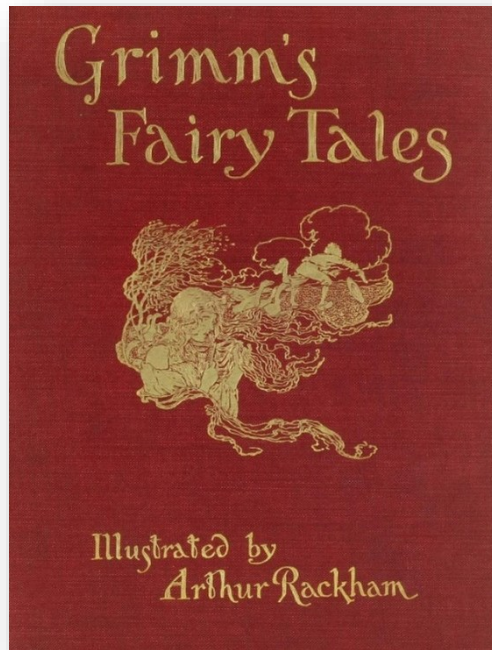


Fairy Tales

~ A Reading Guide ~





Fairy Tales are held in fascination by both children and adults alike, but what are they? Intricately linked with folklore and myth, while now more well-known as literary tales read when young; they are perhaps more rightly called 'Wonder Tales' in German. Author Marina Warner insists that fairy tales '*maintain attributes of the oral tradition of folklore but are inextricably linked with literary retellings*'.

Curiously 'fairies' rarely appear in Fairy Tales, instead talking animals and the presence of magic and enchantments are more common. However, the mere presence of animals that talk does not make a tale a fairy tale. Fairy tales usually reside in 'a land far away' and take place 'once upon a time'. Specific places, people, and events are not mentioned, with religion only rarely.

The name "fairy tale" ("conte de fées" in French) was first ascribed to them by Madame d'Aulnoy in the late 17th century.

Non-fiction books on this interesting genre, including literary criticism, biographies of the writers and collectors, the artists and illustrators and collections of Fairy Tales from Germany, France, Russia and India are represented in the Gibson Library Collection.

The titles on this reading list are a mix of reference only and items that can be borrowed on an Essex Libraries card. Please enquire in advance to view the Reference Collection.



"The King could no longer withhold his daughter."

HISTORY AND CRITICISM

The Science of Fairy Tales, an Inquiry into Fairy Mythology.

1891, Edwin Sidney Hartland

Fairy Tales 1912, Wilhelm Hauff

The Classic Fairy Tales: Iona and Peter Opie. 1974, Iona Opie

The Uses of Enchantment: the Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales 1974, Bruno Bettelheim

Victorian Fairy Tales: The Revolt of the Fairies and Elves

1987, Jack Zipes (Editor)

From The Beast to The Blonde: On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers

1995, Marina Warner

Ventures into Childland: Victorians, Fairy Tales, and Femininity

1998, U.C. Knoepfelmacher

Breaking the Magic Spell: Radical Theories of Folk and Fairy Tales

2002, Jack Zipes

Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion 2006, Jack Zipes

The Irresistible Fairy Tale: The Cultural and Social History of the

Genre 2012, Jack Zipes

Once Upon a Time: A Short History of Fairy Tale 2014, Marina

Warner

The Fairy Tellers: A Journey into the Secret History of Fairy Tales

2022, Nicholas Jubber

WRITERS OF FAIRY TALES

***The True Story of My Life: a Sketch* 1847, H.C. Andersen**

***"The Shoemaker's Son": the Life of Hans Christian Andersen*
1943, Constable Buel Burnett**

***The Brothers Grimm: From Enchanted Forests to the Modern World*
2002, Jack Zipes**



FAIRY TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

German popular stories and fairy tales 1897, Jacob Grimm

Indian fairy tales 1892, Joseph Jacobs

Fairy tales from Turkey 1946, Naki Tezel

ILLUSTRATORS & ILLUSTRATED FAIRY TALES

Arthur Rackham: his life and work 1976, Derek Hudson

The Arthur Rackham Treasury 2005, Arthur Rackham

Arthur Rackham: a life with illustration 1990, James Hamilton

Edmund Dulac 1976, C. White

Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám. Rendered into English verse by Edward FitzGerald 1914, illustrations by Edmund Dulac

The Bookman Portfolio containing colour plates by Kay Nielsen illustrating Hansel and Gretel and other stories by the brothers Grimm, 1925

Beauty and the Beast and other stories 1982, W. Crane

The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm 1996 Illustrated by Arthur Rackham

The Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault 1998, Illustrated by Edmund Dulac

Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales 1995, Illustrated by W. Heath Robinson



**“There stands an old tree; cut it down, and you will find
something at the roots.”**

All Images by Arthur Rackham, copyright free.



A “microcosm of the world’s great libraries”

The Gibson Library was founded in 1832 as the Saffron Walden Literary & Scientific Institution, and the Library is still housed in the Grade II listed building that became the home of the Institution in the 1850s. The collections, which are continually added to, consist of more than 40,000 volumes, old maps, photographs, newspapers, directories, periodicals and local ephemera.

Whether you are interested in local history, Victorian studies, medieval manuscripts, academic research or just looking for a quiet place to study, the Gibson Library is open to everyone. Visitors come from all over the world to make use of the Library’s resources. All are welcome.

The Gibson Library
2 King Street
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 1DE

www.gibsonlibrary.org.uk

A Gibson Library Reading Guide, 2025