

Title: Wishes and Dreams--The Fisherman and His Wife

Content Area: English/Language Arts

NC SCOS or Common Core Objective(s):

Reading Standards 9: Compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Writing Standards 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Rationale/Relationship to Text:

In the chapter "No toys in the fish tank," Catherine and Kristi go swimming in the pond, and they talk about the story *The Fisherman and His Wife* (pages 139-141). The girls talk about what they would wish for if they had the chance.

Catherine asks, "Why is it that in fairy tales, wishes always backfire?"

Instructions/Procedures:

Read aloud the section of *Rules* where Catherine and Kristi discuss the story (pages 139-141).

Read the story *The Fisherman and His Wife* to the class. (If you can incorporate a document camera so that students can see the pictures more easily, even better!)

Discuss with the class the sequence of events in the story--what happens with the wishes as the story progresses?

Do the students agree with Catherine's assessment that wishes always backfire in fairy tales? What are some examples of stories in which this is true? (Some answers could include Aladdin, or King Midas.)

What are some examples of stories in which this is not the case? (Some answers could include Cinderella, or Snow White.)

Writing assignment (students can choose one topic):

1. Tell about a time that you wished for something and got your wish, but things did not turn out the way that you expected. What happened?

2. Sometimes salespeople or advertisements on television will exaggerate what a product can do, and when you get the item it does not work the way you thought it would. Tell about a time you got something and this happened. Describe how it was advertised and why you wanted it, how you got the item, how it worked when you got it, and what you did with it after you discovered the problems. Talk about how you felt about the whole thing, and what you learned from the experience.

3. If you could wish for anything, like the fisherman's wife was able to in the story, what would you wish for, and why? How would your wish change things in the world? Would all the changes be positive, or can you see some problems that your wish might cause? What would be the differences between your wish and the wishes that the fisherman's wife made?

Materials:

Any version of the Grimm brother's fairy tale *The Fisherman and His Wife*.

Paper and pen/pencil.

References:

Rules by Cynthia Lord.

Any version of the Grimm brother's fairy tale *The Fisherman and His Wife*.