

Fairytales for the 21st Century

Aim:

- To encourage participants to think creatively about the world we live in today using familiar stories, and reflect on this through the medium of creative writing.

Materials:

- Pens
- Paper
- Participants' mobile phones (optional)
- Copies of the Activity Review Sheet (p.164)

Maximum Number of Young People:

- 12

Time needed:

- 45 minutes

Method:

- The facilitator should write a list of fairy stories and display them. Suggestions include Cinderella; Jack and the Beanstalk; Rapunzel; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Sleeping Beauty. To ensure the participants are aware of all of these stories, the facilitator should hand out a brief story outline or ask the group to give a short outline of the story to recap.
- Ask participants to translate these stories into modern times. What would these characters be like today? Where would they live? How would you update their stories?
- Ask participants to write one of these stories as a text message. They can do this on their own mobile phones, or using pen and paper. If they are writing them on paper, they are allowed to use only 160 characters (including spaces).
- When participants have finished their stories, they should share them with each other. They may want to text them to each other, and read each other's text stories aloud.

Top Tip:

- You can use well-known films as an alternative to fairy stories.

Portfolio Evidence:

- Copies of the young person's text story
- Copies of the story outline used
- Completed Activity Review Sheet

Transferable Skills:

Through this activity, participants will develop their creativity, interpretational and communication skills.

Linking to the Youth Work Curriculum:

This activity links in to the Participation and Inclusion; Health and Well-being and Personal and Social Development areas of the Youth Work Curriculum.