What We Learned Today: The Fairy Tale Recipe

We learned that fairy tales are a special type of story (genre) that has a unique "recipe" made up of common elements, or ingredients, that make them magical

Fairy Tale Ingredient	Key Characteristics	Examples We Brainstormed
Magic & Fantasy	Spells, curses, talking animals, or enchanted objects.	(Student examples, e.g., Glass Slipper, Magic Lamp, Talking Fox)
Good vs. Evil	A clear Hero (brave, kind) and a clear Villain (greedy, cruel).	(Student examples, e.g., Cinderella/Evil Stepmother,
Royalty/Common Folk	Characters are often Kings/Queens/Princes OR poor villagers/millers.	(Student examples, e.g., Prince Charming, A Youngest Daughter)
A Journey/Quest	The main character must travel or complete a difficult task.	(Student examples, e.g., Climbing the beanstalk, traveling through the ...)
Conflict & Resolution	A big Problem that needs to be fixed. The story usually ends with the problem solved.	(Student examples, e.g., A curse needs to be broken, the wolf needs ...)
Special Phrases	The story uses key words or lines that signal the genre.	"Once upon a time..." and "...lived happily ever after."

Why This Matters

Recognizing these elements is important because:

- Reading: Knowing the "rules" of a fairy tale helps you understand and enjoy the story more. You can predict what might happen!

- Writing: If you know the ingredients, you can mix them up to invent your own completely new and unique magical stories! (Just like we did with the New Fairy Tale Mix-Up! activity).

Homework: Your Creative Quest!

(Choose ONE of the following tasks to complete by next class):

Option 1: The Fairy Tale Element Hunt 🔎
- Read any fairy tale at home (or a chapter if it's longer). List 3 to 5 fairy tale elements you find in the story and provide a brief detail.

Option 2: Invent a Brand-New Element! ✨
Invent a brand-new Magical Object, Magical Creature, OR Special Person that could be the star of a new fairy tale.

My Element's Name: _____
Its Power/Purpose: What does it do? How does it help the hero?
Draw a picture of your new element!

Ms. Martocello
Ms. Martocello
schoolnova.org | martocello@schoolnova.org