

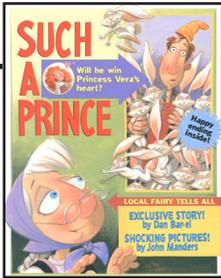


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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SUCH A PRINCE



Dan Bar-el, Houghton Mifflin, ©2007, 13:978-0-618-71468-1

Marvin, with the assistance of an unusual fairy, presents the princess with three perfect peaches, and then must perform challenges from the king who is resisting marrying his daughter to a poor, skinny suitor. The challenge is to fatten 100 rabbits without losing any of them - with a little magic. An adaptation of a French fairy tale.

BEING RUDE

The first two brothers lose because they are rude to the fairy, “None of your business, old hag”, he said rudely. Many fairy tales involve a competition among siblings in which the good behaviour of the younger one is contrasted to the bad behaviour of other characters. Another one of these is *The Talking Eggs* by Robert D. San Souci. In this story, the good daughter, Blanche, is told to take only the eggs that say, “Take Me” and to throw them over her shoulder to obtain riches. The greedy other sister, Rose chooses the jewel-encrusted eggs and receives snakes and toads when she throws them over her shoulder. You could look at this quality in stories by reading *The Talking Eggs* to your students as well. Another quality of the two stories is the “magical object” - in *Such a Prince* it is the whistle; in *The Talking Eggs* it is the eggs.

JOURNAL WRITING

Picture books lend themselves to a journal response, because they are really short to read and because they are often also useful for other writing purposes. Here are three suggestions for *Such a Prince*:

- My favourite childhood books, how I found them, why I liked them.
- Memories of picking, eating, cooking with fruit.
- A story about feeling cheated.

ONCE UPON A TIME MAGAZINE

The cover features many of the elements of a magazine at the supermarket, trying to tempt you to read what is inside the magazine. “Local Fairy Tells All”, “Exclusive Story!”, “Shocking Pictures”, “Happy Ending Inside!”, and “Will He Win Princess Vera’s Heart?” are all from the cover of *Such a Prince*.

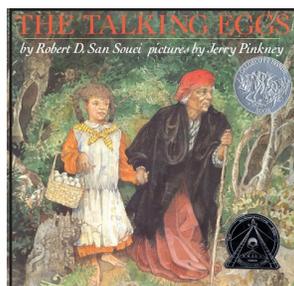
Bring some magazines into class such as: *US, People, Star, National Enquirer*, etc. Discuss how the headlines and catchlines try to sell the magazine to a customer who is waiting at checkout. Which headlines draw them the most? Would that be the same for their parents? For their next piece of writing, ask students to create a simple magazine-style cover featuring those kinds of elements to draw people into their piece.

LISTENING SKILL

As you read, ask students to make a list of what the fairy tells us are her qualities. She mentions that she is a people person, naturally curious, likes to stay active and busy, and isn’t flashy.

A REBUS STORY

Dan Bar-el has an interesting website, with a rebus story where he tells about himself and nature using photographs in place of various words. It might be interesting for students to tell a story about themselves using the same method.



It begins with “Don’t get me wrong. I love (picture of trees) and I love (picture of flowers), etc.



SUCH A PRINCE, CONT.

THE FAIRY TALE STUDY

This may be a good time to analyze with students what makes a fairy tale a fairy tale. Brainstorm the qualities with the students until you have developed a good list of what causes it to qualify as a fairy tale. Fairy tales became popular in France in the 1600's. They were called *conte de fée* which translates as fairy tale. This is about the same time that Charles Perrault published the *Tales of Mother Goose* which included *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*. It is also around the time that Antoine Galland translated *A Thousand and One Nights* which includes *Aladdin*.

Begin by brainstorming in small groups all of the fairy tales that the students know. Then work with them to identify common characteristics of a traditional fairy tale.

Opening

- "Once upon a time."

Closing

- happy ending
- "Happily ever after."

Folkloric Characters

- Elves, trolls, dragons, dwarves, giants, gnomes, goblins
- Fairies in *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*

Supernatural or Enchanted Relative

- Beauty and the Beast
- The Frog Prince
- Snow White
- Sleeping Beauty
- The Mouse Bride
- The Little Mermaid

Magic Items

- The Golden Goose in *Jack and the Beanstalk*
- The Magic Harp in *Jack and the Beanstalk*
- Aladdin's Lamp
- The Magic Salt Mill
- The Whistle in *Such a Prince*
- The Eggs in *The Talking Eggs*

Supernatural Helpers

- Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Fish in *The Fisherman and His Wife*
- Puss in Puss 'n Boots
- The Elves in *The Elves and the Shoemaker*

Happenings in 3's

- 3 Little Pigs
- 3 Brothers in *Such a Prince*
- Goldilocks and the 3 Bears
- Cinderella and her 2 stepsisters
- Three Billy Goats Gruff

Stepmothers Who Cause Problems

- Hansel and Gretel
- The Queen in *Sleeping Beauty*
- Cinderella