

Fairy tale discussion Learning objectives

1. Learn to identify the structure of the fairy tale. Begin with the exposition (time and place) and then the dramatis personae, the people involved. Next, name the problem, followed by the peripeteia or the ups and downs of the story. Identify the climax and notice that it is followed by a lysis or sometimes a catastrophe. At the end of the fairy tale something happens to switch us out of the fairy tale world.
2. Begin to amplify the motifs in the fairy tale by looking at comparative material. How can we construct a context? See how the mouse in this fairy tale behaves differently from other mice. What does this mean?
3. Understand how to begin to interpret the fairy tale, the task of translating the fairy tale into psychological language.