

# "Fractured FAirytales": An Idea for Using AI in Theatre Class

| Why?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                              |
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| Once potential use for AI technologies like ChatGPT is as a creative partner. This lesson is designed to help students rethink the plots of well-known stories then perform the new versions in order to flex their own creativity and think critically about AI capabilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
| Materials Needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Time needed                                                                                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computers with internet access</li> <li>List of fairytales for students to choose from (optional).</li> <li>Props and costume materials for skits (optional, but can enhance creativity).</li> <li>A space for performances (e.g., cleared classroom area or stage).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Approximately 60 mins (can also be multiple class periods if students want more time for prep or performing) |
| Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will be able to collaborate with ChatGPT to generate alternative plot suggestions for a chosen fairytale.</li> <li>Students will be able to devise and perform a skit based on one of the AI-generated plot alterations, demonstrating their understanding of the fairytale's original order of events.</li> <li>Students will be able to reflect on the capabilities of AI in generating ideas for innovative and creative storytelling.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                              |
| Lesson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                              |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairytale Selection             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divide students into small groups and ask each group to choose a fairytale from a provided list (or any fairytale that they want).</li> </ol> </li> <li>AI-Assisted Plot Alteration             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each group should ask ChatGPT to generate suggestions on how to slightly alter the plot of their chosen fairy tale using this prompt: <i>How could I slightly alter the plot of [insert fairy tale] to stay true to the fairytale's order of events, but make it different than the original? Please provide concise and simple suggestions for how to do this.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol> |                                                                                                              |

### 3. Skit Preparation

- a. Each group selects one of ChatGPT's "fractured" suggestions for their fairytale.
- b. They then devise a 5-minute skit based on this altered plot, ensuring they remain true to the fairytale's original order of events. Encourage creativity in terms of setting, time period, and character adaptations.

### 4. Skit Performances

- a. Allow each group to perform their skits. If there are many groups, you might need to allocate more time in a future class period.

### 5. Reflection and Discussion

- a. As a whole class, engage students in a short discussion on their observations about the AI's capabilities in generating creative plot alterations.
- b. Reflect on the benefits and limitations of using AI for innovative storytelling.

## Supplemental Activities

**Mix & Match:** Generate AI plot alterations for two fairytales, then challenge students to combine them into one cohesive story.

**Write & Illustrate:** Extend the activity by having students write and illustrate their fractured fairytales. They could create a mini-book or a digital presentation.