

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Education Resource





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SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

Ideas for the Classroom

BEFORE COMING TO ACMI

Ideas for introducing the film

FAIRY TALES AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

- What is a fairy tale? What is a narrative?
- Where do we usually find fairy tales?
- What are the opening and closing lines used in a fairy tale?
- What are some common characters or character types in fairy tales?
- What are some examples of fairy tales? What happens in those narratives? Where did you read or watch them?

ACTIVITY: Many variations of fairy tales exist. Act out a modern day scene from a classic fairy tale you have read as a class. Ask students to include the key characters and add their own modern day twists. For example, rather than Rapunzel letting down her hair to meet her Prince, he could call her on his mobile.

INNER BEAUTY AND JEALOUSY

- What is beauty? What does it mean to be beautiful?
- Is beauty only on the outside? Can it also be on the inside?
- What does it mean to have inner beauty?
- What does it mean to be jealous?

TEAMWORK

- Why is teamwork so important?
- What makes a good team?



BACK AT SCHOOL

Ideas for exploring *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

RESPONSE TO THE FILM

- Which aspects of the film stand out?
- How did the story make you feel? Did it make you happy, laugh, angry, upset or sad? Why?
- What did students think about the ending?
- What was the message of the film?

FAIRY TALES AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

The opening scene of the film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* shows the image of a book opening and the final scene shows the image of a book closing.

- Why do you think this is used?
- Encourage students to think about how we shared stories before the development of film.

Fairy tales are usually organised into three sections, the beginning, middle and end.

- What parts of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* fit into each of these sections?

ACTIVITY: Many fairy tales are based on folklore, myths and children's stories. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was originally a German fairy tale written by the Brothers Grimm who also wrote many of the original fairy tales reworked by Disney. As a class, read through the Brothers Grimm Snow White original story and compare this to the narrative of the film. What is different? What is the same?

INNER BEAUTY AND JEALOUSY

- What does the film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* teach us about beauty?

The Queen is considered beautiful on the outside, but inside she is full of hatred and jealousy.

- How does she change her outside appearance in the film?



- Do you think that this is a more accurate representation of her inner beauty? Why?

Snow White is considered to be beautiful both inside and out.

- How do we know this?

The Queen asks the magic mirror who is the fairest person of the land every day.

- Why does she do this?
- Why was the Queen angry when she first found out Snow White was the fairest of them all?

TEAMWORK

The animals and Snow White work together to clean the dwarfs house at the beginning of the film.

- How was team work used in this scene?
- How do the seven dwarfs work together with Snow White in the film? Do you think this is effective team work? Why, why not?
- What types of teams are people in your class a part of?

ACTIVITY: Create posters to hang up around the school that provide lessons on how to achieve successful teamwork.

CHARACTERISATION AND STEREOTYPES

- Who are the main characters in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*?
- What types of animals are in this film? What characteristics do the animals in this film have?

In many fairy tales there is a hero who will save the day and an evil character who will try to hurt or ruin the main character's life.

- Who were the good and bad characters in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*?
- How did you know which characters were good and which were bad in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*? Was it their appearance? Their voice? The actions they carried out?



ACTIVITY: Make a list of attributes that can be associated with heroes and villains in fairy tales.

ACTIVITY: Imagine a sequel is to be made for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* called *Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs*.

- Your class has been chosen to create the eighth new dwarf.
- Think about the names of the other dwarfs (Sleepy, Grumpy etc.) and brainstorm a list of adjectives from which you can choose a name for the eighth new dwarf. (For help working on adjectives check out *Story Monster*: www.storymonster.acmi.net.au).
- Ask each student to choose their own name from this list to complete the attached worksheet.