

Youngest girl

PASSAGE #1

ONCE upon a time there was a poor man who had so many children that he didn't have much food or clothing to give them. Pretty children they all were, but the prettiest was the youngest daughter, who was so lovely that there was no end to all her loveliness.

(FROM *EAST O' THE SUN AND WEST O' THE MOON*)

PASSAGE #2

“Once upon a time there was a widow who had two daughters. People often confused the older sister with her mother, since she was so like her both in nature and in looks. Both of them were so awful and arrogant that no one could live with them.

The younger girl, who was gentle and sweet like her father, was also one of the most beautiful girls imaginable. The mother doted on the elder daughter naturally enough, and she disliked the younger one just as intensely. She made her eat all her meals in the kitchen and work from morning till night.”

(FROM *THE FAIRIES*)

PASSAGE #3

“It is a beautiful flower,” said the woman, and she kissed the red and golden-colored leaves, and while she did so the flower opened, and she could see that it was a real tulip. Within the flower, upon the green velvet stamens, sat a very delicate and graceful little maiden. She was scarcely half as long as a thumb, and they gave her the name of “Thumbelina,” or Tiny, because she was so small.

A walnut-shell, elegantly polished, served her for a cradle; her bed was formed of blue violet-leaves, with a rose-leaf for a counterpane. Here she slept at night, but during the day she amused herself on a table, where the woman had placed a plateful of water. Round this plate were wreaths of flowers with their stems in the water, and upon it floated a large tulip-leaf, which served Tiny for a boat. Here the little maiden sat and rowed herself from side to side, with two oars made of white horse-hair. It really was a very pretty sight. Tiny could, also, sing so softly and sweetly that nothing like her singing had ever before been heard.”

(FROM *THUMBELLINA*)

Beautiful princess

PASSAGE #1

By this time, the Queen's little daughter was growing up. She had a kind heart and a beautiful face, and a golden crown on her forehead.

(FROM *THE TWELVE BROTHERS*)

PASSAGE #2

"As time went on, all the wishes of the fairies came true. The Princess grew up so gracious, merry, beautiful, and kind that everyone who knew her could not help but love her. And because she was mischievous and clever as well, she was called Briar Rose."

(FROM *SLEEPING BEAUTY*)

PASSAGE #3

"A very long time ago, when all the countries you've ever heard of were in different places on the map, and the world was still full of the dark, wide forests where fairies tend to live, a princess was born who was not beautiful.

But by the time Rose was thirteen, the maximum possible age for developing beauty in those days, there was still no trace of beauty about her. She had a wonderful character and a quick mind, and everybody liked her. She was buck-toothed and skinny, though, with freckles and hair cut too short for those glamorous styles that beautiful princesses were required to wear. Rose was always running, climbing, and riding bareback, and she knew that if she had to spend as much time on her hair as [her sisters] Asphalt and Concrete did she'd have no time left for anything fun."

(FROM *THE UGLY PRINCESS AND THE WISE FOOL*)

Youngest boy

PASSAGE #1

THERE once was a man who had three sons. The youngest was called Simpleton. He was teased and hated by the others and kept in the shadows.

(FROM *THE GOLDEN GOOSE*)

PASSAGE #2

“THERE was once a woodcutter and his wife who had seven children, all boys. The eldest was only twelve years old, and the youngest was five. None of them was large enough have a job and earn money, so their parents had to work very hard to get food and clothes for them. To make matters worse, the youngest child was sickly and weak, and he was so small that his father and mother called him Hop-o'-my-Thumb. Yet the little, weak boy was gifted with a great deal of sense, and though he never had much to say, he noticed all that went on around him.”

(FROM *HOP-O'-MY-THUMB*)

PASSAGE #3

“They were very poor, and their seven children inconvenienced them greatly, because not one of them was able to earn his own way. They were especially concerned, because the youngest was very sickly. He scarcely ever spoke a word, which they considered to be a sign of stupidity, although it was in truth a mark of good sense. He was very little, and when born no bigger than one's thumb, for which reason they called him Little Thumb.

The poor child bore the blame of everything that went wrong in the house. Guilty or not, he was always held to be at fault. He was, notwithstanding, more cunning and had a far greater share of wisdom than all his brothers put together. And although he spoke little, he listened well.”

(FROM *LITTLE THUMB*)

Wicked stepmother

PASSAGE #1

“Cinderella’s house and Cinderella’s life were ruled by a cold, hard woman with a face of stone and a heart sick with envy. This woman hated anything beautiful: the small yellow birds in the trees, the soft rabbits in the gardens, even the roses that bloom in the summer fields. And she hated Cinderella most of all.”

(FROM WALT DISNEY’S *CINDERELLA*, retold by Cynthia Rylant)

PASSAGE #2

Once upon a time there was a poor man, who had a wife and two children, a boy and a girl. He was so poor that he possessed nothing in the world but the ashes on his hearth.

His wife died, and after a time he married another woman, who was crabby and bad-natured, and from morning till evening, as long as the day lasted, she gave the poor man no peace, but snarled and shouted at him.

The woman said to him, "Do away with these children. You cannot even keep me. How then can you keep all these mouths?" For was she not a stepmother?

(FROM *THE LITTLE BOY AND THE WICKED STEPMOTHER*)

PASSAGE #3

“When their stepmother saw the children, she acted not like a woman, but a perfect fury; crying aloud, wringing her hands, stamping with her feet, snorting like a frightened horse, and exclaiming, "What fine piece of work is this? Is there no way of ridding the house of these creatures? Is it possible, husband, that you are determined to keep them here to plague my very life out? Go -- take them out of my sight! I'll not wait for the crowing of cocks and the cackling of hens; or else be assured that tomorrow morning I'll go off to my parents' house, for you do not deserve me. I have not brought you so many fine things, only to be made the slave of children who are not my own."

(FROM *NENNILLO AND NENNELLA*)

Ogres

PASSAGE #1

“His mother was ugly and his father was ugly, but Shrek was uglier than the two of them put together. By the time he toddled, Shrek could spit flame a full 99 yards and vent smoke from either ear. With just a look he cowed the reptiles in the swamp. Any snake dumb enough to bite him instantly got convulsions and died.”

(FROM *SHREK*)

PASSAGE #2

Then off she ran again until she came to a great castle where a terrible Ogre lived. He was such a fierce and powerful Ogre that he lived all alone, and no one would ever come near him. But Puss-in-Boots pulled the bell boldly, and when the Ogre opened the door and glared out, she bowed politely and walked in with little, silly steps, showing off her yellow boots. And the Ogre was so astonished to see such a visitor that he could only stare with his mouth open.

"Good-afternoon, your Mightiness," said Puss calmly. "I have heard so much about you that I thought I would call and see you. Is it really true that you can turn yourself into a wild beast?"

"Just wait and see!" bragged the Ogre, for he was very proud of the wonderful things he could do.

(FROM *PUSS-IN-BOOTS*)

PASSAGE #3

“In those days there lived a huge ogre, eighteen feet high and nine feet round; his fierce and savage looks were the terror of all who beheld him.

He dwelt in a gloomy cavern on the top of the mountain, and used to wade over to the mainland in search of prey; when he would throw half-a-dozen oxen upon his back, and tie three times as many sheep and hogs round his waist, and march back to his own abode.

The giant had done this for many years when Jack resolved to destroy him. “

(FROM *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK*)