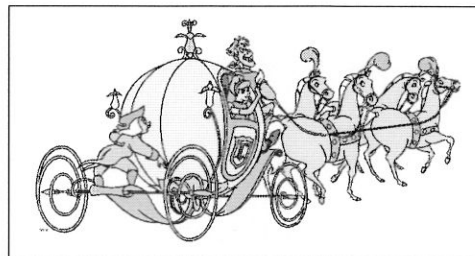
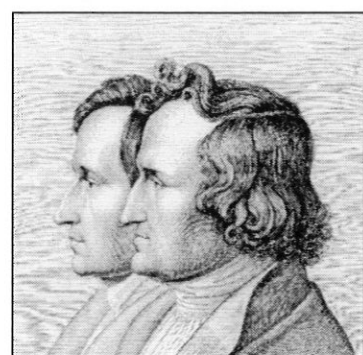


Once Upon a Time

Do you like stories with adventure, danger, and happy endings, where good overcomes evil? Then you may have heard, read, or seen stories by the Brothers Grimm. Are “Cinderella,” “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” or “Little Red Riding Hood” familiar to you - stories with queens, princesses, talking animals, and magic? These are just a few of the **fairy tales**¹ the Grimm Brothers recorded.



“Cinderella” was a fairy tale with a pumpkin that turned into a carriage, and mice that turned into horses.



Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm were attorneys, scholars, professors, librarians, and collectors of fairy tales.

The Brothers Grimm were two German brothers called Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. They were best friends their entire lives. Even after Wilhelm married Henrietta, Jacob continued to live with them. They studied law at the same school, both became librarians, and both became professors. Because of their work with fairy tales and **folklore**², they became known throughout Europe as experts on folktales, language, and anything German. Jacob Grimm is even known as the father of the study of German history.

Over 200 years ago, they published their first book of stories called *Children’s and Household Tales*. These were stories that had been passed down by word of mouth. The Grimm Brothers wanted to **preserve**³ these stories, especially stories from Germany and the German culture. They eventually travelled across Europe listening to stories and recording them, too. They eventually published six editions with over 200 stories! In addition to the fairy tales, they published many other books including “German Mythology” and the German Dictionary.

The first editions of the Grimm fairy tales were not intended for children. The brothers would not even consider including illustrations, but they did have **footnotes**⁴ with a lot of additional information. The fairy tales were rejected by many who said they were too gruesome

¹ **fairy tale** – n. an imaginative story with magical characters

² **folklore** – n. stories that have been passed down from parents to children by word of mouth

³ **preserve** – v. to protect something important in order to keep it for many years

⁴ **footnote** – n. a note at the bottom of the page that explains a specific part of the text (this is a footnote)

and were too close to the harsh ways of real life. So the Grimm brothers followed the lead of English publishers who were publishing books intended for children. Many more people were beginning to read and wanted text to read to their children. The Brothers Grimm began changing the fairy tales to make them less cruel and violent. They also included lessons about moral values, and right and wrong. The Brothers Grimm's fairy tales continue to be enjoyed throughout the world.

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