**Interpretation of Fairytales – Final Presentation**

**(Online course)**

**Due date:** Thursdays May 13 and May 20 or up to arrangement

**Format:**

**a)** powerpoint presentation given in class

**b)** additional text acompanying the powerpoint (can be also done in a

form of notes under the powerpoint if prefered). This is not supposed to be an academic text but just a text from which I can see all your statements and ideas that you say during the presentation

**Main goal:** to **introduce more deeply one fairytale** in an interesting, vivid way, so that other students would have an **overall idea of**

1. **the story itself + your own ideas** on the story (comments, impressions, connotations, symbolism)
2. **possible interpretation** of the story based on 3-5 (see bellow) of the academic approaches covered within the course

**Instruction:**

The presentation can be made by a single student or by two students.

This I leave up to you. In standard course I usually encourage students to make teams because for most students it is more fun but I know that some students prefere individual work which maybe can be easier for some of you now in online course.

If you want to work in pairs, you need to contact each other and cooperate.

**If you are two,** each of you must do approximately the same amount of work and you must speak approximately same long. It should be obvious who of you is responsible for which part of the presentation, but at the same time, you both/all will be responsible for the presentation as a whole.

**The power point must contain**

- your name(s)

- the title of fairy tale and name of author who collected the story

- main events (in chronological order) and the most important motifs of the story accompanied by apt illustration or picture to refresh the storyline

- possible interpretation (see below) following the chronological order of the story (also accompanied by apt pictures, if possible)

**The presentation should take approximately 20 minutes.**

**Topic (what fairytale can be presented):**

It must be definitely a Czech or European fairytale which was **not yet analyzed** within the course reading or course activities. (It means NOT *Hansel and Grethel, Little Red Cap, Cinderella, Snowhite* or *Sleeping Beauty,* also not *The Three Feathers*).

Preferably, it should be a fairytale that was read within the course reading. However, if you are especially interested in doing another fairytale, let me know and an exception can be made.

So you can choose:

1. **a fairytale from the Reader**

Preferably Czech: *The Three Golden Hairs; Long, Wide and Sharpeyes;The Firebird and the Red Fox, Prince Bayaya, The Clever Princess, Twins, Zlatovláska the Golden Hair*

(But could be also German: *TheJuniper Tree*, *The Rumpelstiltskin*; or Russian: *Baba Yaga, Father Frost*)

1. a **film version of a fairytale** which was shown within the course:

*Till the Leaves Will Fall from the Oaks; The Sorcerer´s Apprentice, Reason and Luck,* *The Hat with Little Jay Feather, Seven Ravens)*

NOTE: If you choose *The Sorcerer´s Apprentice*, you can not do the ritualistic analysis that was done precisely in class.

Each fairytale can be presented just once in the course. There will be shared document where you will sign up for the topic. When in doubt whether a fairytale is suitable, ask the lecturer.

**Secondary sources to use:**

You can use a source mentioned in classes or any other online source but it **is not necessary.** Of course, if you do that, **you must state that** (in oral part as well as in the powerpoint).

**Recommended structure of the presentation and other more detailed tips:**

1. **Give a name** of the fairytale, of its collector.

**2. Refresh or retell briefly but vividly the storyline** of the fairytale so that you refresh the story to the rest of class. (In case you have chosen a fairytale which is not yet known to the students, your description must be more thorough.) Find an **illustrative picture(s)** to accompany that (you can use the pictures or the comics strip from the reading).

**TIP FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS:** Sometimes it is not so easy to find an illustration to the given Czech tale if you only google their names in English. If needed, ask me about the Czech name.

**3.** Describe what **overall impression the fairytale made to you (both),** using following themes:

**a)** What was the first thing that engaged your attention when you were reading the story? What impression made the story to you personally?

**b)** What in the story was familiar to you? From where? It means: have you ever encountered similar motif, scene, situation like depicted in this fairytale, and where (mytology, religion, another folklore genre, literature, historical reality, common life...)? (You can skip this now if you are going to speak about this properly in part 5) Or maybe, have you ever met similar version of this fairy tale or even you knew the fairy tale?

**c)** What in the story was very unusual, surprising, unexpected for you and why?

**4**. Try to **classify the fairytale:**

From your point of view, is this typical fairy tale? Which type of tale is this fairy tale according to Aarne-Thompson- Uther´s classification system? Does this fairytale border any other type?

**5.** Give **possible interpretation(s) of the fairy tale:** How would you interpret the story (or its parts) in terms of socio-historical, religious, ritualistic, Jungian, Freudian, feminist or evolutionary-biology interpretation?

**ESSENTIAL NOTE:**

**If you work on a fairytale as single student, you must introduce 3 of these perspectives. If you work in pair, at least 4 perspectives must be involved for a fairytale.** (In terms of sociohistorical approach, as we have covered it in class, thorough analysis of social institutions besides thorough analysis of religous motifs can be counted as 2 perspectives, ritualistic/initiation analysis is also counted separately)

**TIP:** When applying any of the covered approaches, use materials presented in class and consider all the important terms and concepts.

**6.** Finally, you should iniciate a short **discussion.** For that, prepare

- **question** that you would you like to ask the other students

- **the points** of your presentation that you think should be **discussed more**

(you also should be ready to answer these questions)

**Additional tips:**

1. **What else you can include to your presentation:**

Do you identify yourself with this interpretation? Or, you personally don´t agree with it?

**How would you interpret the story by your own** (if you are not bound to those interpretation frames)? What is the main message of the story from **your point of view?**

Did the topic inspire you to elaborate some other interesting topic related to fairy tales?

1. Don´t worry that your interpretation is not accurate. The main goal of this presentation is that you **read the fairytale with open mind** and **in inquisitive way** and **think about it**, and then you share out your ideas among the class. Never mind if your ideas are crazy. **Originality, creativity and your own speculations are appreciated. (**Especially psychological interpretation are all based on assumption that what speaks to you in any way, simply **is** meaningfull and important – even if only for you.)

3. When interpreting (part 5), don´t speak about what you have *not* found (for example: „I really made effort to find any Freudian connotations but I did not succed…“or „I don´t see any historical aspects…“). Instead, speak just about what you *have* found.

**Please, send your presentation to me vie email by cca 30 minutes before the class when you present.**

If you have any question, feel free to contact me.

Good luck! I am looking forward to your ideas ☺. Bara

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

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| **Powerpoint**  **+ handout**  (max 5 points) | 1. **Visual quality** and **Illustrativeness**  * cohesive, meaningful and agreable visual style * visual creativity and originality * suitability and relevance of the pictures illustrating both the storyline   and the interpretation | max 2 points |
| 1. **Structure**  * meeting formal structure and other requisites stated in the instruction * clarity, organization and coherence of ideas stated both | max 2 points |
| 1. **Carefulness**  * correct spelling of names, terms, other words | max 1 points |
| **Presentation**  **(oral performance)**  (max. 5 points) | 1. **Persuasiveness**  * clarity and dynamics of the speech, keeping eye-contact, ability   to engage the audience and explain things convincingly | max 2 points |
| 1. **Interactivity**  * appropriate questions posed to the audience,   ability to lead a short discussion afterward | max 1 point |
| 1. **Preparedness**  * ability to react to questions and comments during discussion | max 1 point |
| 1. **Organization**  * organization of the group work, timing | max 1 point |
| **Ideas/ Content**  (max. 5 points) | 1. **Review of the fairytale**  * engaging summary of the tale | max 1 point |
| 1. **Application of theory**  * showing comprehension of covered theories, ability to apply them suitably * coherence, logic and supporting of statements and arguments * good insights, contribution to deeper uderstanding of the fairytale | max 3 points |
| 1. **Creativity, originality**  * independent thinking, personal opinion, originality of your views,   open mind, enriching the fairytale | max 1 point |
| **Powerpoint + presentation** | | **Maximum**  **15 points** |