**Week 3 / In-class reading**

1. Where are these tales from? How can you recognize it?

**The Lion, the Hyena, and the Rabbit**

Once upon a time Sim′ba, the lion, Fee′see, the hyena, and Keetee′tee, the rabbit, made up their minds to go in for a little farming. (…)

**The Hunter and the Polar Bear¨**

Once there was a poor hunter. He always went out but never got anything. Finally one day he saw a polar bear (…)

**Bootoolgah the Crane and Goonur the Kangaroo Rat, the fire makers**

In the days when Bootoolgah, the crane, married Goonur, the kangaroo rat, there was no fire in their country. They had to eat their food raw or just dry it in the sun. One day when Bootoolgah was rubbing two pieces of wood together, he saw a faint spark sent forth and then a slight smoke. "Look," he said to Goonur, "see what comes when I rub these pieces of wood together—smoke! (...)

II. What ancient social orders or rules do the following fairytales depict?

**a)** **The Fire Bird and The Red Fox** (Czech fairytale)

(…) The king **called his eldest** son to him and said. „Go, my son, you will keep watching tonight. If you find who is taking those apples, you shall be richly rewarded, and if you manage to catch the thief, **I shall give you half of my kingdom.“ (…)**

*After the two older brothers failed, the youngest brother is coming**to the king and says:*

„Father, I will watch tonight to see if the apple also disappears.“„My dear child,“ the King said**, „I think there is little you can do, you are so young and inexperienced. (...)**

**b) Cinderella** (European fairytale)

(...) The woman had brought two daughters into the house with her, who were beautiful and fair of face, but vile and black of heart. Now **began a bad time for the poor step-child.** "Is the stupid goose to sit in the parlour with us?" said they. "He who wants to eat bread must earn it; out with the kitchen-wench." They took her pretty clothes away from her, put an old grey bedgown on her, and gave her wooden shoes. "Just look at the proud princess, how decked out she is!" they cried, and laughed, and led her into the kitchen. There she had to do hard work from morning till night, get up before daybreak, carry water, light fires, cook and wash. *(…)*

+ **The Juniper Tree** (German fairytale), **Father Frost** (Russian fairytale)

**c) The Three Golden Hairs** (Czech fairytale)

*A king has lost his way when hunting and decided to stay overnight in a charcoal-burner´s cottage. At night he witnessed a prophecy of the three fates to the new-born baby which says that the new-born boy will marry…*

„ (...) the baby daughter born this night to the king who lies upstairs on the straw.".

The three old women blew out their tapers and all was quiet. They were the Fates.

**The king felt as though a sword had been thrust into his heart. He lay awake till morning trying to think out some plan by which he could thwart the will of the three old Fates.**

**d) The Three Golden Hairs** - continued

(…) When day broke the child began to cry and the charcoal-burner woke up. Then he saw that his wife had died during the night. “Ah, my poor motherless child,” he cried, “what shall I do with you now?” **“Give me the baby,” the king said. “I’ll see that he’s looked after properly and I’ll give you enough money to keep you the rest of your life.”The charcoal-burner was delighted with this offer and the king went away promising to send at once for the baby.**

**e) The Three Golden Hairs** – once more

*(after the wedding of the hero and the princess - when they are in love and started a happy life)*

The king said: “What´s done can´t be undone. However, young man, you can´t expect to by my son-in-law for nothing. If you want my daughter you must bring me for dowry three of the golden hairs of old Grandfather Knowitall.” **He thought to himself that this would be an impossible task and so would be a good way to get rid of an undesirable son-in-law.**

**f) Beauty and the Beast**

(What happened at the beginning of the story? How the conflict was solved?...)

**g) Long, Wide and Sharpeyes** (Czech fairytale known from comics version)

*- the hero is fighting for the bride, the sorcerer is repeatedly making obstacles to him and is testing him, finally the hero gains her (with the help of his companions) and takes her back home*

**h) The Shoes that Were Danced to Pieces** (Fairy tale by The Brothers Grimm, exists in Czech version as well)

There was once upon a time a King who had twelve daughters, each one more beautiful than the other. They all slept together in one chamber, in which their beds stood side by side, and every night when they were in them the King locked the door, and bolted it. But in the morning when he unlocked the door, **he saw that their shoes were worn out with dancing,** and no one could find out how that had come to pass. Then the King caused it to be proclaimed that whosoever could discover where they **danced at night,** should **choose one of them for his wife** and be King after his death. (...)

*(A poor veteran soldier than comes to the king and follows the daughters in the night. He finds out that they go to an underground castle where they wildly dance with young soldiers (in some versions they also eat and drink wine at the ball). They are brought back to the father, the soldiers are then punished and expelled. The veteran marries the oldest daughter and gets the kingdom, the other sisters are married off as well.)*

**i)** motif of old scary witch living alone in the woods **(Hansel and Grethel, Baba Yaga)**

III. What kind of religion, belief or religious practice do the following fairytales reflect?

**a) The Blacksmith's Stool: The Story of a Man Who Found That Death Was Necessary** (Czech fairytale)

ALONG time ago when the Good Lord and Peter walked about together on earth, it happened one evening that they stopped at a blacksmith's cottage and asked for a night's lodging.

"You are welcome," the blacksmith said. "I am poor, but whatever I have I will gladly share with you." (...)

**+ Three Golden Hairs** – motif of baby in the basket, an apple tree, a snake

**b) The Fire Bird and The Red Fox** (Czech fairytale)

*(Three brothers set out to look for the Firebird to cure their father. They came to a crossroads and decided to take a different road each. One of them said:)*

"Let us leave a sign here so that the one who comes back first will know how the others have fared. Let each of us plant a twig in the ground. **Whose twig sprouts leaves, he will have found the Firebird**- that shall be our sign."

*(after the adventurous journey the succesfull brother is coming to the crossroad again:)*

When he arrived at the forest junction he remembered the twigs each oner had planted as a sign. **The twigs of his two brothers were dry and brittle but from his twig a beautiful spreading tree was now growing beside the path.** *(...)*

**c) Little Snowhite** (German fairytale collected by brothers Grimm)

Once upon a time in midwinter, when the snowflakes were falling like feathers from heaven, a queen sat sewing at her window, which had a frame **of black ebony wood**. As she sewed she looked up at the snow and pricked her finger with her needle. Three drops of blood fell into the snow. The **red** on the **white** looked so beautiful that she thought to herself, "**If only I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as the wood** in this frame."

**Soon afterward she had a little daughter who was as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as ebony wood**, and therefore they called her Little Snow-White. (...)

*(When the magic mirror replies to the queen that no more her but the Snowhite is the fairiest of all, she summons a huntsman and says to him:)*

"Take Snow-White out into the woods. I never want to see her again. Kill her, and as proof that she is **dead bring her lungs and her liver back to me**."

**d) Bayaya**(Czech fairytale)

**(…)** Then I’ll tell you,” said the king, “although you can be of no help. Years ago three dragons came flying through the air and alighted on a great rock near here. The first was nine-headed, the second eighteen-headed, and the third twenty-seven-headed. At once they laid **waste the country, devouring the cattle and killing the people.** Soon the city was in a state of siege. **To keep them away we placed all the food we had outside the gates** and in a short time we ourselves were starving. In desperation I had an old wise woman called to court and asked her was there any **way to drive these monsters from the land.** Alas for me, there was a way and that way was **to promise the awful creatures my three beautiful daughters** when they reached womanhood. (…)

(…) Tomorrow I must sacrifice to them my oldest child, the day after tomorrow my second child, and the day after that my youngest.” (...)

**+ many other Czech fairytales with the motif of dragon who is to eat the royal daughters**

**e) Till the Leaves Fall from the Oaks**

- is there a similar motif?...

**f)** abundance of **čerts (Devils), dragons, dwarfs, watermen and various other demons living in the nature**

IV. What other aspects of real life can you find in these fairytales?

**a) Srstnatka/ Furcoat girl** (German fairytale)

There was once on a time a King who had a wife with golden hair, and she was so beautiful that her equal was not to be found on earth. It came to pass that she lay ill, and as she felt that she must soon die, she called the King and said, "If thou wishest to marry again after my death, take no one who is not quite as beautiful as I am, (…)." And after the King had promised her this she closed her eyes and died.

For a long time the King (…) had no thought of taking another wife. At length his councillors said, "There is no help for it, the King must marry again, that we may have a Queen." And now messengers were sent about far and wide, to seek a bride who equaled the late Queen in beauty. In the whole world, however, none was to be found (…). So the messengers came home as they went.

Now the King had a daughter, who was just as beautiful as her dead mother, and had the same golden hair. When she was grown up the King looked at her one day, and saw that in every respect she was like his late wife, and **suddenly felt a violent love for her.** Then he spoke to his councillors, "**I will marry my daughter**, for she is the counterpart of my late wife, otherwise I can find no bride who resembles her." When the councillors heard that, they were shocked, and said, "**God has forbidden a father to marry his daughter**, no good can come from such a crime.“

The daughter was still more shocked when she became aware of her father's resolution, but hoped to turn him from his design. (…)

*The story then tells how* ***she was escaping the father (who pursued her)****. Finally a young hero saves her.*

*(+ the same motif occurs here in the Grimm fairytale, in a Czech fairytale* **The Princess with the Golden Star on her Forehead** , *and in Russian, Spanish and other European fairytales)*

**b) Little Red Cap, Bluebeard…**

**c) The Changeling of Spornitz** (German household tale)

A young peasant woman in Spornitz had her child stolen by an underground person or a Monk, and a changeling put in its place in the cradle. The mother saw it happen, but she could neither move nor call out. The maniken told her that her son would someday become the king of the underground people. From time to time they had to exchange one of their king's children for a human child so that earthly beauty would not entirely die out among them. She was told to take good care of the little dwarf prince, and her house would be blessed with good fortune. With that the Monk laid the changeling on her breast and disappeared with her child. She took care of the child, and the prosperity of her household increased visibly. **However, the changeling remained small and ugly, and died in his twentieth year.**

**+ The Elves** (German household tale)

A mother had her child taken from the cradle by elves. In its place they laid **a changeling with a thick head and staring eyes who would do nothing but eat and drink.** (…)

**d)** motif of **dwarfs/giants**…