Worksheet 2

Fractured Fairy Tales
The Formula of Fairy Tales

My son, Prince Charmless, desires a wife. I'm dead keen to get him out of the house, where he does nothing but play video games and eat pizzas.

Most traditional fairy tales follow a set formula when it comes to the basic elements of narrative writing: setting, plot and characters. Usually the setting is a castle, cottage or forest and the plot's underlying message is almost always that goodness is rewarded and evil is punished. As for the characters, we can usually find:

- A **main** character who is good and kind but facing some kind of problem. He or she often needs help from other characters and is duly rewarded in the end with wealth and/or by marrying into royalty and living 'happily ever after'.

- An **evil** character who despises the main character and wants to harm him or her. This character may have magical powers that are used for inflicting damage but hindered by other characters trying to protect or save the main character. He or she is punished in the end by being destroyed or stripped of his or her powers.

- An **heroic** character who is brave and wants to protect and ultimately 'save' the main character by confronting and defeating the evil character. This character is rewarded with riches or a dream marriage.

Task 1: Alter the traditional formula of fairy tales and compose your own fractured fairy tale suitable for children in the lower primary years.

Task 2: Present your fractured fairytale in a format that would be appropriate for your young audience (for example, a big book, a digital animation or as a play).

Extension Activities:

- Write a review about a book you have read or a movie you have seen that does not follow the traditional fairy tale formula. (For example Shrek or Tangled). Include how this book or film is similar and/or different to the usual fairy tale formula and present your findings to the class.

- Research the history of fairy tales. When and where did they originate? Who wrote them? How were they passed on from generation to generation?

- Compose an argument text in response to the topic: *Fairy Tales can distort our view of reality.*