Overview
In this hour long activity, pupils look at a fairy tale of their choice and consider its features, such as the language used, the characters and their motivation, plot and setting.

Materials
Resources and organisation (15 minutes):
• A selection of fairy tales
• A3 paper and felt tip pens
• Access to EducationCity mind map tool

Lesson structure
0 - 10 minutes – Read a fairy tale to the class. As you read it, ask the class to think about the various features of the tale including the characters and their motivation, setting and plot and to record their ideas on individual whiteboards.

10 - 25 minutes – Once you have read the story, discuss with the pupils the different features they have noted down and record their ideas using the EducationCity mind map tool. Draw out the understanding that many of the characters are not named but are only known by their role or title, for example the woodcutter, wicked stepmother or prince. Also discuss the language used that is common to most fairy tales.

20 - 40 minutes – Explain to the pupils that you would like them to work in pairs to look at a fairy story of their choice and to read it through. Once they have read it through encourage them to note the features down on A3 pieces of paper in the form of a mind map. Circulate as they do this to assess their understanding of the key features.

40 - 55 minutes – Once they have completed the task, invite the pupils to present their ideas to the rest of the class. As the pupils listen to each other’s presentations, ask them to think about the ways in which the tales are similar and different.

55 - 60 minutes – Draw the class back together and compile a list of the common features of fairy tales.