

The Fairest of Them All... Story



The story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is one of the most well-known and popular of all fairy tales. Few people in the world haven't heard the story of the charming young princess who is nearly killed by her evil stepmother, but is helped by a group of seven loveable dwarfs. And there can't be many of us who haven't glanced in a mirror and felt like saying, "Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of us all?", hoping that it might answer, "You are!"

Although the story of Snow White is one of the most famous fairy tales, no one knows exactly where it comes from, who first told it, or how old it is.

As far as we know, the first time Snow White was written down was in a collection of folk stories and legends put together more than 180 years ago by two German brothers: Jacob Ludwig Grimm (1785–1863) and Wilhelm Carl Grimm (1786–1859). The Brothers Grimm were fascinated by both language and myths. They spent many years travelling around Germany, collecting words for what was to become a well-respected dictionary, and finding out about the stories peasant farmers and country villagers had learned from their grandparents and were now passing on to their grandchildren.

They finally published a book called *Kinder und Hausmärchen* (*Children's and Household Tales*) between 1815 and 1818, which contained many of these folk tales. As there were very few books around at the time, and almost nothing written especially for children, the book became very popular and many of the tales in it became children's favourites.

The first English book of Grimms' fairy tales appeared in 1823 with drawings by George Cruikshank, who later illustrated many of Charles Dickens' novels.



Did you know that the story of Snow White, which we all know today, is not the same as the original one that the Brothers Grimm first wrote down?

Over the years, parts of the story have changed, especially after the Disney cartoon was released. Here are some of the differences:

In the original story, the dwarfs don't have their own names and personalities and don't feature very much; all we know is that there are seven friendly little men who look after Snow White. The famous names Doc, Dopey, Sneezzy, Grumpy, Sleepy, Happy and Bashful were all created by the makers of the Walt Disney film.

In the original version of the story collected by the Grimms, Snow White is a princess who is hated by her own mother, the Queen. The mother tries to kill the daughter, and nearly succeeds, until her father - the King - finds out what is happening.

He is so angry that he executes the Queen.

Gruesome stuff! Although the Grimms collected this story, they never printed it in that form. Instead, they altered parts of the tale, making the evil queen into a stepmother and introducing the prince who rescues Snow White.

There is no kiss to wake up Snow White in the original story. Instead, she is taken away by the prince on a cart, and the poisoned apple stuck in her throat becomes dislodged when his cart hits a pothole.

It's quite possible that Snow White was in fact based on a real person. Her name was Countess Margaretha von Waldeck, and she was the daughter of a German count, Philip IV.

According to documents that survive to this day,

she was renowned for her beauty. In 1549,

when she was 16, Margaretha was forced

to move to Brussels in Belgium, by her

stepmother, Katharina of Hatzfeld. When she

was in Brussels, Margaretha fell in love with a

prince (as you do), who would later become

Philip II of Spain. A few years later,

Margaretha mysteriously died at the age

of 21, apparently having been

poisoned. No one really knows who

poisoned her, although her father,

stepmother and the king of Spain all

opposed the romance, so it could have

been any of them.

Although many fairy tales have been turned into films or cartoons,

none have been as universally popular as Walt Disney's version of

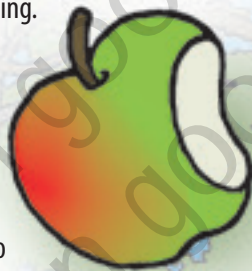
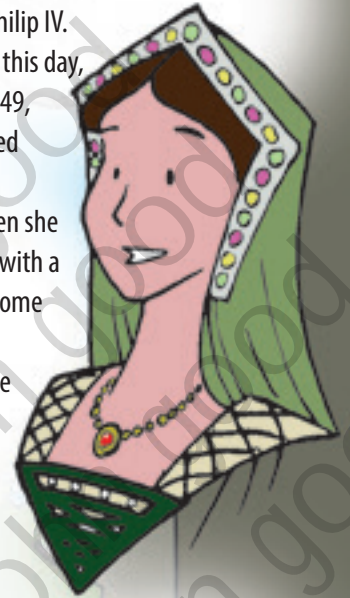
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. It was the first feature-length

Hollywood cartoon and at the time was regarded as an

extraordinary achievement. Even today, most of us come to know

Snow White by watching the cartoon as a child.

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In the original tale, the wicked stepmother tries three times to kill Snow White, not just once.

In the original tale, the stepmother does not die while trying to kill the dwarfs. Instead, she suffers a far more grisly fate by having to wear a pair of red-hot shoes!



All About Dwarfs



Many fairy stories and mythical tales contain dwarfs and, of course, the tale of Snow White contains seven of them! These short people have gone on to capture the imaginations of people all across the world, and feature in literature, film, theatre and real life as well.

Real Dwarfs

A dwarf is usually classed as a person who is less than 4' 8" (157cm) as an adult. The correct term (depending on preference) is 'dwarf', 'little person' or 'person of short stature'. The word 'midget' was used many years ago, but nowadays, it is offensive term to many little people. The shortest known person in history was Chandra Bahadur Dangi, of Nepal, who died in 2015, aged 76. He was 21.51 inches tall (less than two feet!)

The Lord of the Rings and Tolkien

The dwarves (this is how Tolkien spelt 'dwarfs') of the Middle-Earth are shorter and stockier than Men or Elves, and they could withstand heat and cold. Like many dwarves in folklore, they were great miners, blacksmiths and craftsmen, and lived much longer than Men. The 13 companions of Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* are all dwarves, led by the mighty Thorin Oakenshield.



Dwarfs in Norse Mythology

The dwarfs of the Norsemen are known as the Svartálfar ('black elves') and resemble old men with long beards. The greatest craftsmen of all, it was the dwarfs Eitri and Brokkr who create Thor's mighty hammer, Mjöllnir.

Munchkins

In *The Wizard of Oz*, the little people are known as Munchkins, and they all live in Munchkin Country. In the books, they are said to only wear the colour blue, and they wear hats almost as tall as themselves, with a silver bell at the tip. The main city in Munchkin Country contains the start of the Yellow Brick Road.



Oompa-Loompas

These inhabitants of Loompaland (a very dangerous place, full of vicious predators) were employed as workers by the amazing Willy Wonka, who paid them in their favourite food, cocoa beans. A generally happy and wise people, they are fond of practical jokes and singing:

"Oompa-loompa, dippety-doo, they'll sing a song if something happens to you"...



The Seven Dwarfs



The Original Tale

In the story first collected by the Brothers Grimm in the 19th century, the seven dwarfs are all identical, with no names and white caps. They are just as kind and merciful as the later versions, however, and take pity on Snow White after finding her asleep in their cottage. A hundred years later, a play was performed on Broadway, and the dwarfs were given names: Blick, Flick, Glick, Snick, Plick, Whick and Quee! They also appeared in a silent film in 1916. One of the people who flocked to see this film was a 15-year-old Walt Disney...

Eighteen years later, a now-famous Walt Disney decided to create the very first feature-length animated film, and despite misgivings from many people around him, he created a modern legend.

The Dwarfs

Disney, unlike anyone before him, decided that each dwarf would have a different name and personality: but which ones? Over 50 names (some of which might be considered offensive nowadays) were put forward, such as Jumpy, Deafy, Dizzy, Hickey, Wheezy, Baldy, Gabby, Nifty, Sniffy, Swift, Lazy, Puffy, Stuffy, Tubby, Shorty and Burpy!

Pompous but kind and bumbling Doc was chosen as the leader of the dwarfs, and Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy and Bashful followed soon afterwards. Sneezy was originally called Jumpy, and the final dwarf was unnamed. That was Dopey, who was the last dwarf to be added, and who is the most popular of them all! (By the way, Dopey never speaks - watch the film if you don't believe it...)

As we now know, the film was an enormous success, and has been re-released in cinemas no less than seven times. It is still regarded as a classic piece of animation, and is one of the top 10 highest-earning American films of all time. At the 11th Academy Awards, in 1939, Walt Disney was honoured with an Academy Honorary Award for innovation; for this, he was presented with one full-sized Oscar - and seven little ones!

Paul Selvey
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Seven Little

Stepword

HEART Change one letter at a time, to get from HEART to TEARS

- You _____ a sound
- Hair on a man's chin
- You pin notes on this
- Wild pigs!
- Big animals that love honey

TEARS

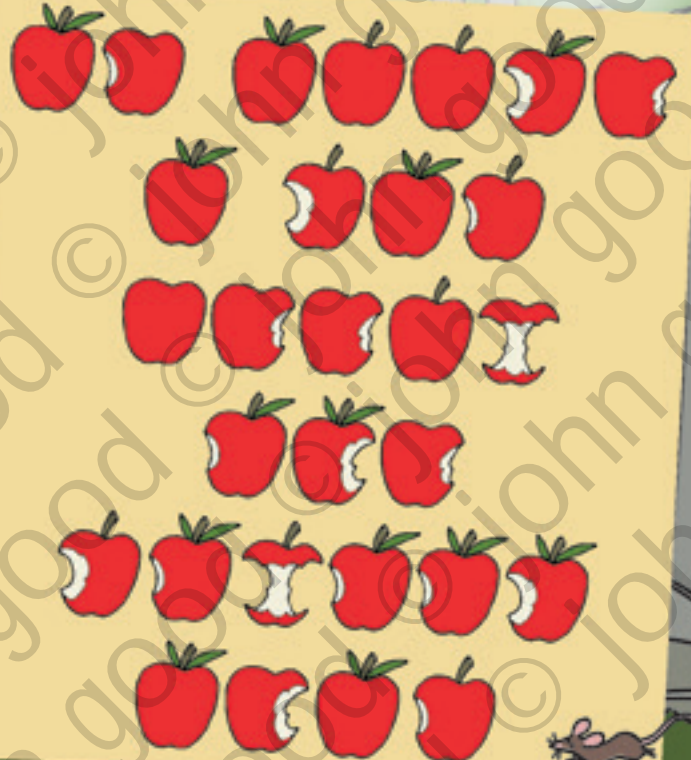
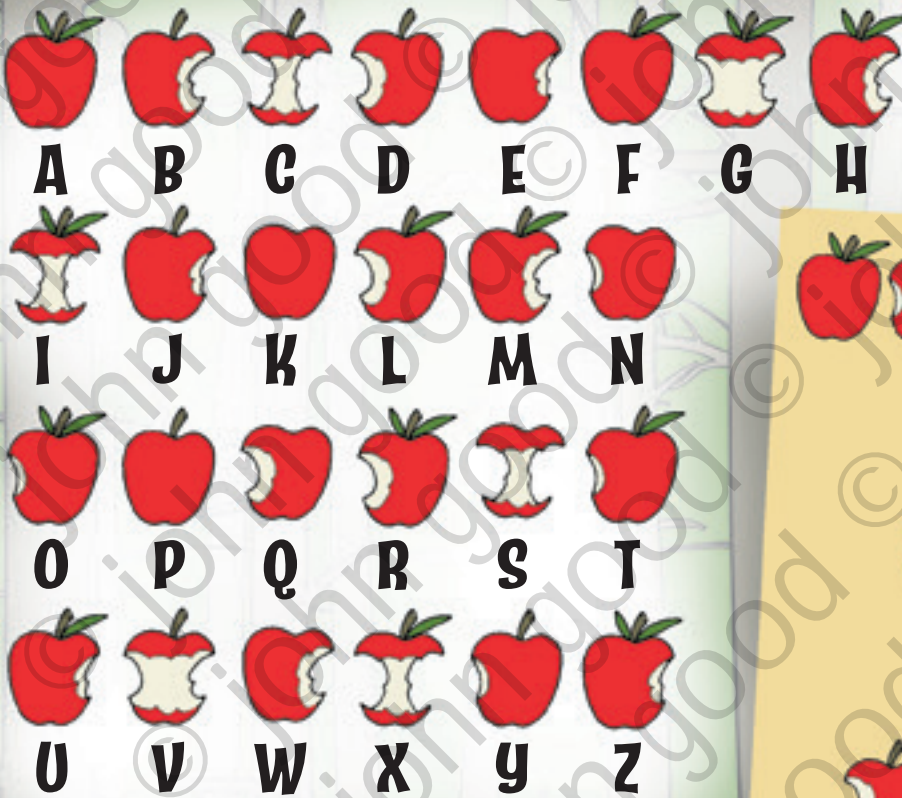
Dot to Dot



Join up the dots to see what's living under the ground in the dwarfs' mine!

Appley Ever After

Can you find out what the hidden message is?



Puzzlers!

Nice
Nice
Mice!

Can you find SEVEN mice on these two pages?

Spot the Pair!

Two of these dwarfs are the same!
Can you find which two they are?



What Is It?

Colour in the shapes with a dot, circle, triangle or square in them, and use the colours shown in the key, to find something the dwarfs would find useful!

What's in the Sack?



Take the first letter of the animal or object, and they will spell out a tasty something that's in the sack!



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Spot the Difference!

There are SEVEN differences between these two pictures of the seven dwarfs. Can you find them all?



Snow White's Sweet Cakes!

Snow White cooks cakes for the dwarfs using this simple recipe!

Ingredients

100g (4 oz) self-raising flour 100g (4 oz) soft margarine
100g (4 oz) caster sugar One cup of icing sugar
Two eggs Some small paper cake cases
Serves eight

Instructions

1. Place all the ingredients in a large bowl and mix for about two to three minutes until well-mixed together.
2. Put the cake cases on a baking tray. Spoon a tablespoon of the mixture into each of the cake cases.
3. Bake for about 15-20 minutes at 180°C (350°F).
4. Remove the cakes from the oven and allow them to cool.
5. Mix some icing sugar with a little water to make a thick paste.
6. Decorate the cakes with the icing (and yummy things like sprinkles, small sweets, nuts or raisins).
7. Eat them (don't forget to share them with your friends!).



Colour Me In



What's Your Dwarf Name?



How It Works

Take the date of your birthday, and write it out in full. For instance, if you were born on 15 November 2012, you would write it out like this:

15 11 2012

Now add all the numbers up together, like this:

1+5+1+1+2+0+1+2

(1) (6) (7) (8) (10) (10) (11) (13) The total is **13**

If you end up with double figures, add those together as well:

1+3

(1) (4) The total is **4**

That's the number you have as your dwarf name!

- 1 JUMPY**
- 2 DIZZY**
- 3 WHEEZY**
- 4 BALDY**
- 5 GABBY**
- 6 NIFTY**
- 7 LAZY**
- 8 PUFFY**
- 9 BURPY**



DAY

MONTH

YEAR

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Answers!

Spot the Pair!



Dot to Dot



What's in the Sack?

MONKEY, UMBRELLA, FOX,
FISH, INK, NAIL

MUFFIN

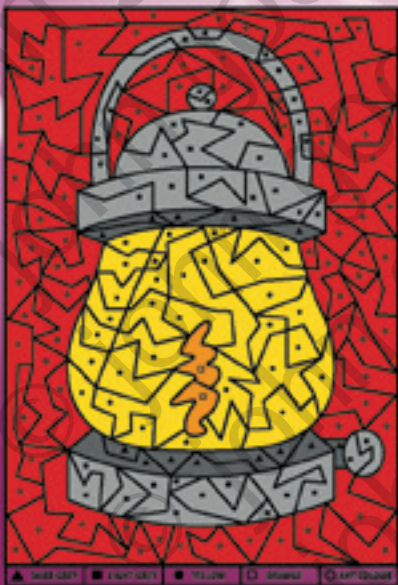


Appley Ever After

The hidden message is:

**AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS
THE DOCTOR AWAY**

What Is It?



Stepword

**H E A R T
H E A R D
B E A R D
B O A R D
B O A R S
B E A R S
T E A R S**

Answers!

Spot the Difference!

