



Lion class: English unit on Twisted Fairy Tales

In this unit you will write your own version of a fairy or traditional tale, choosing your own 'twists'. Read through this whole document before you start.

Session 1:

Brainstorm the titles of as many fairy tales/traditional tales as you can. Once your list runs dry, you could ask an adult if they can think of some or look on YouTube for some animated versions.

Once you have made a list, now think of the common features of fairy tales. This will include common characters (e.g. a witch, a handsome Prince etc), common themes (e.g. good over evil) and common events (e.g. a character being imprisoned somewhere). Note them down.

Session 2:

Choose one fairy tale to base a new story on.

You need to decide which characters, themes and events you will keep and which ones you will twist to make a new story. Perhaps you could give your story a whole new setting, bringing it right up to date, but it should still have some recognisable aspects from the original story.

Since I was a child, I've always loved 'The Princess and the Pea', so I would choose this. I'd have to decide what to keep (perhaps the pea hidden under something) and what to change (I'd ditch the Princess and choose a modern day strong girl character!). I would also update the end goal, so instead of proving herself to be a real Princess and being able to marry the Prince (yawn!), I would have some other 'prize'. Be imaginative- I really don't want to read a story virtually identical to the original.

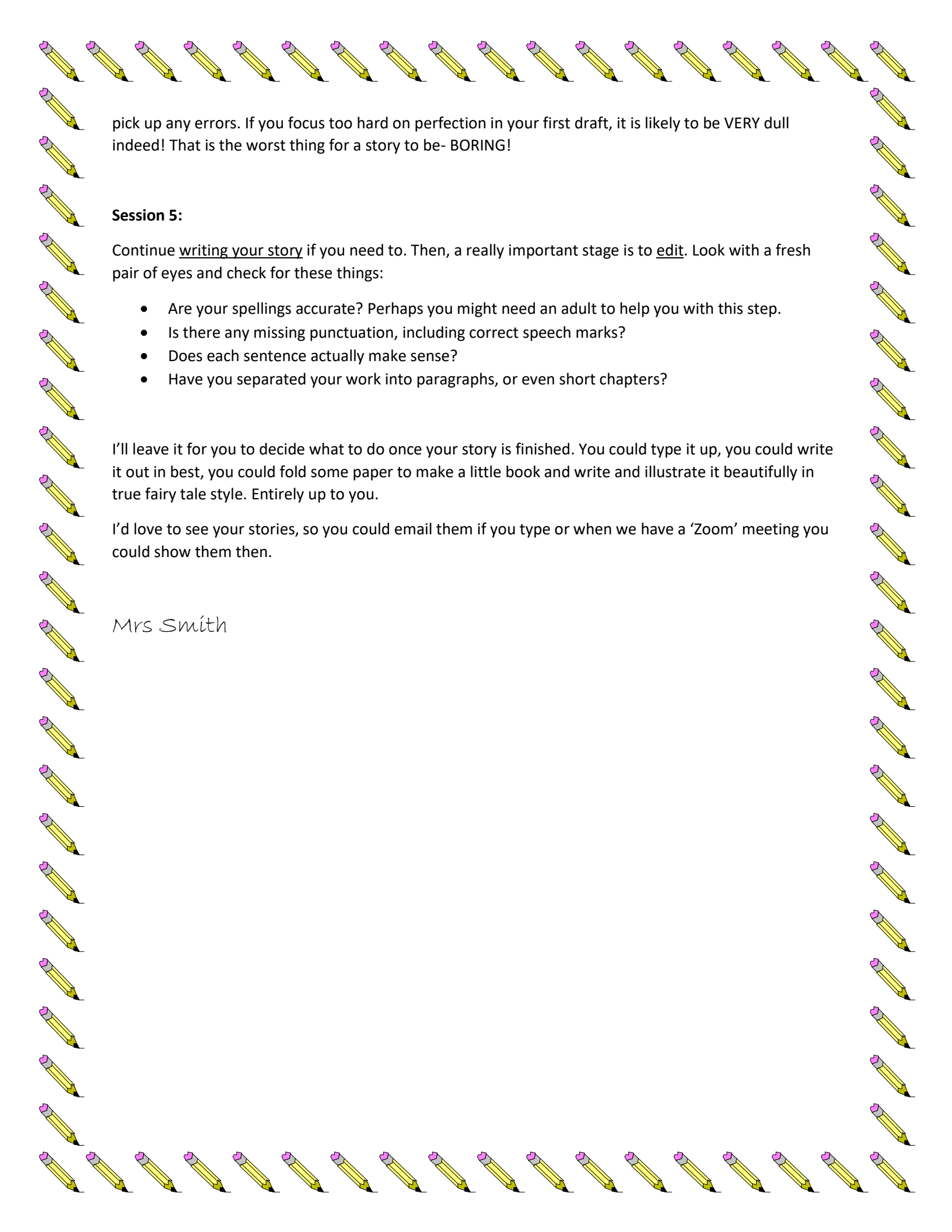
Session 3:

Today, focus on the key 2 or 3 characters in your story. Do a quick sketch of each character and surround it with words and phrases to describe the character. You could also write down key phrases you want the characters to use. Try to make sure you are using a good range of Y5 and 6 appropriate and adventurous vocabulary.

Session 4:

Spent 10 minutes or so making a quick plan for your story. This could be based on a story mountain model- where you start the story by introducing the setting and some characters, show the build up to the main event and then the ending. Or it could simply be a few notes on how you think your story will structured (but it is your prerogative to change your mind!)

Start to write your new twisted fairy tale. Remember when you first write, the key thing is to get really into your story, events and characters and let yourself go. When you re-read and edit, this is the time to



pick up any errors. If you focus too hard on perfection in your first draft, it is likely to be VERY dull indeed! That is the worst thing for a story to be- BORING!

Session 5:

Continue writing your story if you need to. Then, a really important stage is to edit. Look with a fresh pair of eyes and check for these things:

- Are your spellings accurate? Perhaps you might need an adult to help you with this step.
- Is there any missing punctuation, including correct speech marks?
- Does each sentence actually make sense?
- Have you separated your work into paragraphs, or even short chapters?

I'll leave it for you to decide what to do once your story is finished. You could type it up, you could write it out in best, you could fold some paper to make a little book and write and illustrate it beautifully in true fairy tale style. Entirely up to you.

I'd love to see your stories, so you could email them if you type or when we have a 'Zoom' meeting you could show them then.

Mrs Smith