Below are anonymous thesis statements about fairy tales. Review these before we meet in class. Consider which are stronger than ours—which ones tell you exactly what the essay will be about? Which ones are too vague? Which ones could be more specific? How would you revise the ones you believe could be improved? Consider the language, wording, grammar, and punctuation. How could these things be improved as well? Do you think weaker wording contributes to a weaker thesis statement? Why or why not? We will discuss these in class together.

**The Little Mermaid**

The inspiration behind Hans Christian Andersen’s version of The Little Mermaid was derived more from his personal life and emotions than an intended theme to please his readers, while Disney’s version of The Little Mermaid differs due to plot changes designed to create a story more pleasing and understandable to the audience.

Hans Christian Anderson’s original story and Disney’s movie contain similarities and differences for marketable reasons.

“The Little Mermaid” happens to be a very symbolic and reflective story of Hans Christian Andersen, society, and different ideas of true love.

In the two distinctive versions of “The Little Mermaid,” there are a vast amount of dissimilarities including her family dynamic, the payment of the sea witch, the love story, and her fate.

**The Snow Queen**

His tears wash the sliver of mirror out of his eye and he is finally able to return home with Gerda.

Both stories feature characters who embark on long, difficult journeys to kingdoms of some kind. The characters abandon everything they know and love, and they sacrifice the comfort and familiarity of the lives of which they grow accustomed. Burdens prevent characters in both stories from experiencing joy and beauty. Both stories also feature similar themes and symbols. These similar ideas and theme reinforce the Christian messages of saving grace and faith.

It tells of two little playmates, Gerda and Kai, best friends that are sent on a life changing journey of self-discovery, battling sin, and overcoming temptation. However, the most intriguing part of this tale is the religious symbolism and the underlying spiritual journey of Gerda and Kai and their path to salvation.

**Modern Society**

Compared to the tales collected and transcribed by Hans Christian Andersen and the Grimm Brothers in the early 1800s, modern day fairy tales have been redefined by a change in societal values.

In the Disney version, the only punishment the sisters have to endure is not becoming royalty and being stuck with their cruel mother, which society views as an acceptable punishment for the sisters, given how cruel they have been, but society today would not view the sisters being blinded as a reasonable punishment and would not want their children watching something like that.

Newer films such as *Frozen, Brave,* and Maleficent are great examples that use supportive families, evil princes, and individuality, all of which are very uncommon aspects of older stories. Fairy tales portray relationships by depicting what society is lacking at the time, which includes the ideas of divorce, true love’s kiss, family stability, and independence.

An original fairytale by the Grimm Brother’s follow a general storyline making them as old fashioned as they are starting with an absent father, a young and oblivious princess, an element of magic and a very violent ending usually resulting in the death of the villain.

Comparing the Grimm Brothers’ story of “The Frog Prince” to the Disney movie *The Princess and the Frog*, it can be seen how adaptions of the same story may occur but the class elements of fairy tale, such as family, magic, true love, and a happy ending will always remain.

While most people believe that all fairy tales have similar characters and stories, some of the original fairy tales differ from that of stereotypical notion and do not contain the common elements that are within fairy tales today.

**Other**

Despite the common belief in today’s society that all fairy tales end in happily ever after, Grimm’s Fairy Tales frequently have immediate and violent endings to demonstrate the idea that reality is not always so bright, and that in the real world one does not always get the magical ending he desires. Moreover, these violent endings also sometimes serve as a means for delivering punishment to the “villains” of the story.

In Grimm’s Fairy Tales and Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen, shoes are used as symbols to represent humility and justice.

Hans Christian Andersen’s use of biblical allusions and coinciding recurring religious themes show the key role religion played in fairy tales.

Through its use of relevant actors and directors, different story lines, and mature themes, Robin Hood has been able to entertain a broad spectrum of audiences and remain a timeless fairy tale.

It can be inferred that Disney fairy tales use talking animals as a big theme because of their appeal to a younger audience, a more imaginative state of mind, and overall what the human mind craves.

In J. M. Barrie’s book, Peter Pan, each character has their fair share of villainous actions as they have heroic actions, some more than others.

A lot of people would describe Dexter as a hero because he only kills people who have killed other people and because he is the protagonist of the show; I would disagree and say that he is a villain because he kills people out of an urge to fulfill, he framed an innocent man, he is deceptive, and he is also emotionless or soulless.

Batman, seen as a villain through the eyes of Gotham, is actually an antihero because his method of self-sacrifice for the city of Gotham lacks typical, conventional heroic traits.

His menacing look, his outstanding ability with knives and bladed weaponry and his unpredictable and bipolar personality make him one of the most fearful villains to defeat.

Experiencing parental rejection as a child contributes to how a person acts whether it’s heroically or villainously, as they grow older. Evidence of this is prevalent in *Peter Pan, Wicked*, and the popular television show, *Once Upon a Time*.

Although Kuzco’s villainous characteristics are obvious at the beginning of the story, each villain has a weakness in which makes his upcoming personality one of a hero’s.

Although Severus Snape’s actions may appear evil or immoral throughout the Harry Potter series, he ultimately is not a villain because he killed Dumbledore so Draco Malfoy did not have to, he was only mean to Harry because James Potter married his beloved Lily, he riskes his position as a Death Eater to protect Harry, and he sacrifices his life so that Harry could beat Voldemort.

So of course, Anakin trusts the Cancellor and joins him, believing what he is doing is the best thing for him, his wife, and his two expected children. Evil? I think not.

The influence of the parent’s rejection from the child’s life has massive effects on his or her actions and can even cause them to act villainously or heroically at times. Both Peter and Elphaba were deprived of having a family and therefore were not able to experience the conventional and loving family relationships. Due to the lack of support system, the characters deal with the effects of the parent’s refusal to raise them and not being able to partake in the normal upbringing.

These positive selfish behaviors can also be seen in novels such as in *Peter Pan* and films as in: *Maleficent, Finding Nemo, Spider Man* and many more. The heroic figures within these novels and films are needed, however their good deeds are selfish deeds, as they put their wants before others. Heroes are selfish.

The psychotic Rorschach, who has limited power and saves whatever good people he can, the genius Ozymandias who saves the planet at a large cost, and the omnipotent god Dr. Manhattan who realizes that he has too much power to ever do anything truly heroic.

Dasiy Buchanan is one of the most underrated villains in literature, practicing an extreme lack of morals, selfish behavior, destructive recklessness, and murder, both direct and indirect. Daisy has committed many crimes that were inexcusable but also unnoticed, the biggest one perhaps getting away with it all.

By Season 5, Walt possesses many characteristics of a traditional villain: being affiliated in a dangerous and illegal business, causing multiple deaths, manipulating those around him and being reckless for person gain, the change within Walter White makes it evident that he is the villain in *Breaking Bad*.

The original Disney villains were simply evil for the purpose of being evil while today’s villains are portrayed as more of a trustworthy character who betrays the main character.

In order to look deeper into Hook’s character, one must answer the questions “What is a villain?”, “If Hook is not truly evil, what or who is Hook,” “Why did Barrie make this character?” and finally, “Is Hook the hero of this story?”

After reading the novel *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie, it is believed that neither Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Wendy, nor Tinker Bell are the heroes of the story, ultimately concluding that there is no hero.

Alonzo is a villain trapped in a hero’s body. He takes advantage of his power as a detective, which are supposed to help people, and hurts the people in his community that he is supposed to be helping.

Although Dexter Morgan may seem like a malicious villain due to his frequent killing sprees, he actually represents more qualities of a true hero because his difficult childhood has enabled him to channel his energies and rid the world of true evil.