

A BOOK OF NEW AND REIMAGINED FAIRY TALES

A SMARTS EDUCATION PROJECT FROM 53 STARK COUNTY STUDENTS

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-Sitte	A Cinderella Story, by Maryann C. Meniru, Grade 6, Jackson Memorial Middle School, Teacher: Mrs. Peters	0-54
eath)	The Corner of the Dark Forest, by Micaela Michalk, Grade 11, Lake High School, Teacher: Mr. Wise5	5-57
	The Necklace, by Sophia Morgan, Grade 10, Lake High School, Teacher: Mr. Wise	58
-Sittle	Mirror, Mirror, by Sophia Morgan, Grade 10, Lake High School, Teacher: Mr. Wise5	9-60
	Fair Maiden, by Alicia Nichols, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	61
	The Princess and Running Moccasins, by Mia Nonno, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	62
	Cinderella: Happily Never After, by Mariah Powell, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	63
	A Happily Ever After Just For You, by Alison Reynolds, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	4-65
	Three Soldiers: Regret, Pain, and Death,	
	by Hannah Rumble, Grade 10, Louisville High School, Teacher: Mrs. Mast	66
eath)	The CareTaker by Hannah Rumble, Grade 10, Louisville High School, Teacher: Mrs. Mast	66
	The Wishing Fountain, by Hannah Rumble, Grade 10, Louisville High School, Teacher: Mrs. Mast	67
	Down in the Forest of Dead Raven's Point, by Ellie Russ, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	68
	The Ugly Duckling, by Kathryn Sanders, Grade 10, Jackson High School, Teacher: Mr. Piotrowski	69
-Sith	The Purple Jewel, by Lindsay Scheetz, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	70
	The Ones Who Survived, by Kaylah Simmons, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	71
	The Quest, by Melanie Snier, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	72
	Little Red Riding Hood, by Senna Storm (Taylor Lehman), Grade 12, R.G. Drage, Teacher: Mr. Reymond	73
	Num Num Blossom, by Greta Taylor, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	74
	Untitled, by Katie Taylor, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	75
- California	Cavaliere and the Dragon, by Kyle Tilstra, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	76
	The Dance of the Spirits, by Ashleigh Vale, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	77
	Happily Ever After, by Lexee Valentine, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	78
	The Prince and the Princess, by Ripley Villers, Grade 9, Perry High School	9-82
	Aster, by Mary Visco, Grade 6, Jackson Memorial Middle School, Teacher: Mrs. Peters	3-84
	The Peril of the Kind Monkey, by Mitchell Walker, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	85
4877	The Little Woodland Creature, by Samantha Weaver, Grade 8, Lehman Middle School, Teacher: Mrs. Zutali	86
	Her Fatal Touch, by Shannon Weirtz, Grade 9, Jackson School for the Arts, Teacher: Mrs. Snow	87
	The Key to Her Heart, by Amanda Wise, Grade 11, Lake High School, Teacher: Mr. Wise	8-89
-Sittle	Frog Prince, by Emily Wolfe, Grade 11, Malvern High School, Teacher: Mrs. Rossetti	90

Signifies Award Winner



THREE SOLDIERS: REGRET, PAIN, AND DEATH

CATEGORY: REIMAGINED TALE

BY HANNAH RUMBLE, GRADE 10, LOUISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, TEACHER: MRS. MAST

THE CARETAKER

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THREE SOLDIERS: REGRET, PAIN, AND DEATH

Regret: "My dear friends and comrades I tire of war. I look out there on this field and see all the friends I will never share a drink with again. At night when I close my eyes, I see the faces of the lives I have taken."

Pain: "Regret I feel your pain; it is no longer my death that haunts me. The first time I killed I knew I had taken one too many lives. I feel like a monster out here on the field. Then I go home, and they cheer for me as if I have done something great. There is nothing glorious or great about war."

Death: "War is neither glorious nor fair. At the end of the day when I bury the dead, I see those who deserve life. I also see men walking among us who deserve death. Who chooses the fate of these men cares not if they have family, friends, or loved ones. To them we are just pawns on a chessboard. When the games are over they walk away and play another day. They do not feel our pain, sorrow, and fear. The players never die they just try their luck at a new table."

Regret: "I am going to pay my respects to those who have fallen."

Pain & Death: "Brother, we shall accompany you."

Random soldier: "My lords that soldier you are praying for t'was our enemy."

Regret: "My boy at the end of the day it matters not which side we were on. We are all men who fought for those we have loved. This man deserves my prayer as much as you do."

Random Soldier: "Forgive me my lords but I could not help overhearing your conversation earlier. If war scars you so why not just kill yourself and spare yourself the pain?"

Death: "Look around you my boy. We are no longer living for just ourselves."

THE CARETAKER

A small boy will wander here.
In fact, he is really quite near.
With a boom and a crash, he falls through my door.
My first impression was that his entrance was quite poor.
He takes a seat to hear the tale.
I take a small swig of ale.

He sits there quietly to hear me start.
The story that comes from my old heart.
Usually I snarl at those stupid kids to go away.
But he was different, so I let him stay.

With a tiny cough, he asks if I wouldn't mind. With a rare smile, I nod and my thoughts rewind.

This graveyard here was once alive. Here the dragons did thrive. I was given the honor of being their keeper. Only our relationships I say went a little deeper.

All was well until the knights came. They wanted these wild creatures tame. The dragons were rounded up and caged. Oh! The terrible sound of their rage.

It was up to me their lone friend in this cruel place. I unlocked the cages in a mad race. They were slaughtered, unable to feel the wind once more. Now my child the sad story of the valiant dragons is yours.

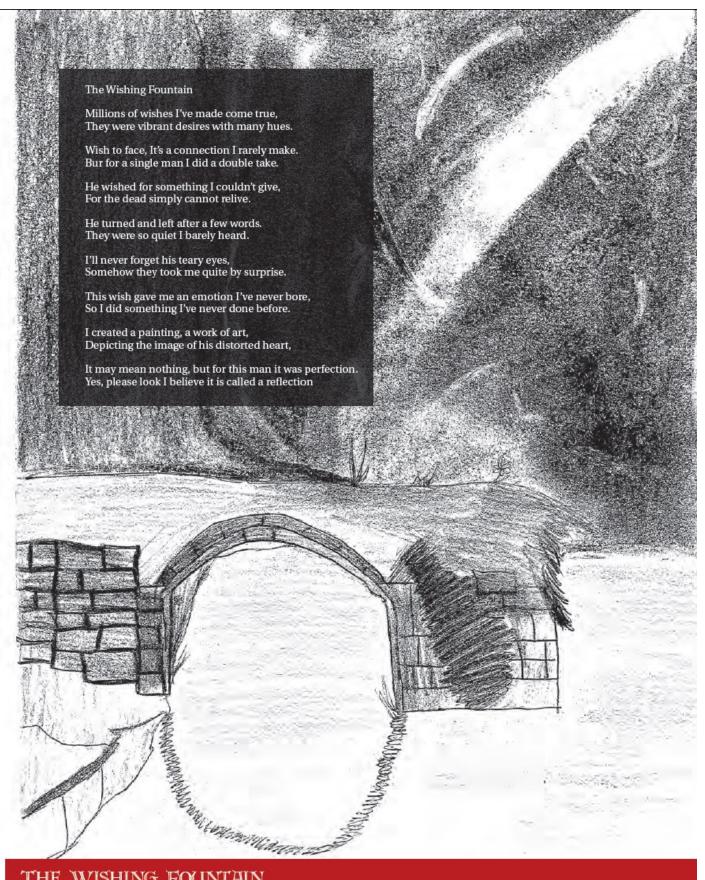
Teary eyes looked upon me
And I heard a mumbled "I see".
I paused then asked the child what he saw.
His face became clouded with a look of awe.
He told me not to fret.
That the dragons had not died yet.
And that he would rule.
A better and a little wiser fool.
In a state of puzzlement and stupor I sat.
That boy left with a wizard in a tall hat.
Just as he promised, the dragons came.
The knights quit their silly game.
I cried, but I'm not much of a weeper.
Once again, I became a dragon keeper.

That is the story of the small boy with whom I had a chat. Did you know you are sitting where King Arthur once sat?

SWORD IN THE STONE AWARD







THE WISHING FOUNTAIN

CATEGORY: ORIGINAL TALE

BY HANNAH RUMBLE, GRADE 10, LOUISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, TEACHER: MRS. MAST

