

Modern Fairy Tales

By Donna Barone, Children's Assistant

Fairy tales are part of our childhoods that we pass on from generation to generation. The classic versions we read today are vastly different than the ones that existed hundreds of years ago. Today we have many authors who are treating us to new versions of these tales, you may want to give some of these a try.

In *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and journey into other Grimm inspired tales. Readers learn the true stories behind the fairy tales as they go through a forest brimming with menacing foes. *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* by Liesl Shurtliff, begins by telling the reader that when Rump was born his mother only manages to give him part of his name, Rump, which becomes a source of teasing. This tale behind the tale will answer the age old question of what is in a name.

If you love a princess story why not try a new version with a twist. In the beginner chapter book series *The Princess in Black* by Shannon Hale, when Princess Magnolia's monster alarm rings she changes into her alter ego, The Princess in Black. These humorous adventure packed stories, with fun illustrations are sure to become a fast favorite. Another story with a princess who is strong and powerful is *Ninja-rella: A Graphic Novel* by Joey Comeau and illustrated by Omar Lozano. In this retelling of the classic, Cinderella desires to become the Prince's "extremely awesome royal ninja bodyguard." When the prince holds a grand ball, with the help of her fairy godnija, Ninja-rella has her chance to show off her skills to the prince!

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu is inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's The Snowqueen. Hazel and Jack have been best friends and neighbors since they were six. One day Jack stops talking to Hazel and disappears into a forest with a mysterious woman made of ice. Now it's up to Hazel to go in after him.

For mystery lovers, *The Sisters Grimm Series* by Michael Buckley, is about orphaned sisters Sabrina and Daphne who are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother. She reveals that the girls have two famous ancestors, the Brothers Grimm, whose classic book of fairy tales is actually a collection of case files of magical mischief. Now the girls must take on the family responsibility of being fairy tale detectives.

Maybe one of these new favorites will become a classic just like the Brothers Grimm.

Please visit or call the Wyckoff Rizzo Children's Library at 201-891-4866, x3 for suggestions on finding great reads for children of all ages. Ask us about joining our Summer Reading Club.