



More Stories to Think With

The list here contains the title of story, who it is written by, where to find it in the *Once Upon an If* bibliography, and some of the thinking themes it creates.

This section of *Once Upon an If* has been made electronic so that it can be a growing resource.

How to approach these stories

Decide whether you are going to read or tell the story. Hopefully, after reading *Once Upon an If*, you will want to at least try some storytelling.

If you opt to tell, then...

- (Optionally) research versions of the story.
- (And/or) read the story and make a keyword list (see 'Keyword lists' on page 35)

Whether you tell or read...

- Decide what your aims and objectives are and devise questions for the story to meet them (see 'Finding the right question' on page 59).
- Alternatively, use First thoughts and follow an emergent enquiry (see 'First thoughts' on page 57 and 'Emergent questions and enquiries' on page 59) or use a method such as The concept box (see 'The concept box' on page 77).
- Decide where, in the story, to put your questions for your enquiries (see 'When to ask a question' on page 63).

Researching stories

When preparing a story you may want to consider researching different versions. The slight variations that occur in retellings of stories from the oral tradition may affect the story considerably and bring out different issues. Often, storytellers read a number of versions and combine them in some way to create a new version that suits the teller's or their class's needs. Compare how Fisher's version of 'The Story of Gelert' (Fisher 1996)

compares with Thomas' 'Gelert The Dog' (2007) (see 'Structure and the withholding of information' on page 46), and then have a think about which version you think works best for thinking with. For example, here I have taken one of the stories below, 'The Shirt of Happiness' and given more than one source reference. My version combines these sources.

The Shirt of Happiness (Calvino 1981, Fisher 1996, Forest 2011, Yolen 1987, all in bibliography: Story Collections)

- Happiness
- Sources of happiness
- Placebo effect

The versions of the stories for this section, however, have been chosen because I believe them to be good versions for thinking with.

The Stories

How The Fairies Became (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Good and evil
- Decisions
- Taking sides

Uphill Struggle (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Life and living
- Toil and strife
- Meaningfulness

Winged Words (The If Odyssey, Worley 2012, bib: Philosophy in Schools (P4C))

- Fortune and fate
- Problem solving

The Wise Master (Forest 2011, bib: Story Collections)

- Doing the right thing
- Conscience

The Wooden Sword (Forest 2011, bib: Story Collections)

- Belief
- Faith
- Miracles

A Dispute in Sign Language (Forest 2011, bib: Story Collections)

- Language and meaning
- Intention
- Communication

The Wolves Inside (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Good and evil
- Inner conflict

The Armchair Traveller (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Knowledge
- 'Knowing that' / 'knowing how'

The Golem (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Life / death
- Slavery
- Robots / machines

Skinning Out (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Old age / mortality
- Words and language

Robin Hood and The Golden Arrow (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections)

- Ethics: robbing the rich to give to the poor
- Social justice and vigilantism (the superhero problem)
- The terrorist-freedom-fighter problem

Master of All Masters (Rackham 1994, bib: Story Collections)

- Language and meaning
- Private language

The Blind Man and The Bird (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Honesty and integrity
- Goodwill

Maybe (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Consequences

This Too Will Pass (Forest 2011, bib: Story Collections)

- Change and inevitability
- Entropy

The Sheep Thieves (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Saints and sinners
- Moral motivation
- Self-image

The Smuggler (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Noticing
- Seeing

Heaven and Hell (Thomas, Killick 2007, bib: Story Collections)

- Psychology
- Perception
- Self control

Yallery Brown (Garner 2011, bib: Story Collections)

- Relationship to oneself
- Rational self-interest vs. irrational behaviour

Admirable Hare (McCaughrean 2001, bib: Story Collections) and The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten (Baggini 2010, bib: Thought Experiments)

- Ethics of meat-eating / vegetarianism
- Animal rights

The Three Billy Goats Gruff (Many editions)

- Dilemmas
- Ethics of negotiation (survival vs. loyalty to brothers)