

East / Edith Pattou

A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment. *Gr. 6+*

Straw into Gold / Gary D. Schmidt

Pursued by greedy villains, two boys on a quest to save innocent lives meet the banished queen whose son was stolen by Rumpelstiltskin eleven years earlier, and she provides much more than the answer they seek. *Gr. 5+*

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin / Liesl Shurtliff

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen. *Gr. 3+*

The Real Boy / Anne Ursu

A unsettling series of events forces Oscar to abandon his comfortable, routine-filled life as a magician's shop assistant in order to discover why all the children in the magical city of Asteri are falling ill. *Gr. 4+*

Breadcrumbs / Anne Ursu

Hazel and Jack are best friends until an accident with a magical mirror and a run-in with a villainous queen find Hazel on her own, entering an enchanted wood in the hopes of saving Jack's life. *Gr. 4+*

Snow in Summer / Jane Yolen

Recasts the tale of Snow White, setting it in West Virginia in the 1940s with a step-mother who is a snake-handler. *Gr. 5+*

Curse of the Thirteenth Fey / Jane Yolen

Accident-prone, thirteen-year-old Gorse, the youngest fairy in her family, falls into a trap while on her way to the palace to bless the newborn princess, Talia, but arrives in time to give a gift which, although seemingly horrific, may prove to be a real blessing in this take-off on the classic tale of Sleeping Beauty. *Gr. 5+*

Mt. Lebanon Public Library

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Fairy Tale Retellings

Modern Fairy Tales and Updated Takes on Classic Stories

Suggestions from the Mt. Lebanon Public Library

The Wide-Awake Princess / E.D. Baker

Annie, younger sister of the princess who would be known as Sleeping Beauty, is immune to magic and stays awake when the rest of the castle falls into an enchanted sleep, then sets out to find a way to break the spell. *Gr. 5+*

The Frog Princess / E.D. Baker

After reluctantly kissing a frog, an awkward, fourteen-year-old princess suddenly finds herself a frog, too, and sets off with the prince to seek the means—and the self-confidence—to become human again. *First in the Tales of the Frog Princess series. Gr. 5+*

Untold Tales / William J. Brooke

Retells and continues the stories, from a contemporary perspective, of such classic tales as “Snow White,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and “Sleeping Beauty.” *Gr. 4+*

The Fairy-Tale Detectives / Michael Buckley

Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead. *First in the Sisters Grimm series. Gr. 4+*

Storybound / Marissa Burt

Shy, twelve-year-old Una Fairchild is suddenly transported by a mysterious book into the Land of Story, where characters from books hope to be cast into a tale of their own, and Una attends the Perrault Academy while trying to discover why she is there. *Gr. 3+*

The Wishing Spell / Chris Colfer

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. *First in the Land of Stories series. Gr. 4+*

Entwined / Heather Dixon (YA Dixon)

Confined to their dreary castle while mourning their mother's death, Princess Azalea and her eleven sisters join The Keeper, who's trapped in a magic passageway, in a night-dance that soon becomes nightmarish. *Gr. 6+*

Once Upon a Marigold / Jean Ferris

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father. *Gr. 5+*

Shadow Spinner / Susan Fletcher

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life. *Gr. 5+*

Cloaked / Alex Flinn (YA Flinn)

Seventeen-year-old Johnny is approached at his family's struggling shoe repair shop in a Miami, Florida, hotel by Alorian Princess Victoriana, who asks him to find her brother who was turned into a frog. *Gr. 6+*

Once Upon a Toad / Heather Vogel Frederick

When her mother goes on a NASA mission, Cat is sent to live with her father, stepsister Olivia, and younger brother Geoffrey, but interference by her inept fairy godmother causes toads to appear when Cat speaks and gems to fall from Olivia's mouth, bringing one to the attention of jewel thieves and the other to a secret government lab. *Gr. 4+*

Reckless / Cornelia Funke

Jacob and Will Reckless have looked out for each other ever since their father disappeared, but when Jacob discovers a magical mirror that transports him to a warring world populated by witches, giants, and ogres, he keeps it to himself until Will follows him one day, with dire consequences. *Gr. 5+*

Princess of the Midnight Ball / Jessica Day George

A retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who wear out their shoes dancing every night, and of Galen, a former soldier now working in the king's gardens, who follows them in hopes of breaking the curse. *Gr. 5+*

A Tale Dark and Grimm / Adam Gidwitz

Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering wicked creatures, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. *Gr. 5+*

Just Ella / Margaret Peterson Haddix

Fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape. *Gr. 6+*

Book of a Thousand Days / Shannon Hale

15-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids. *Gr. 6+*

The Goose Girl / Shannon Hale

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. *Gr. 5+*

Rapunzel's Revenge / Shannon Hale (j GRAPHIC HALE)

Rapunzel is raised in the Old West in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls where she dreams about having a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. After climbing over the wall to find the truth, Rapunzel discovers that her real mother is a woman named Kate, who is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. *Graphic novel.*

The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom / Christopher Healy

The four princes—Prince Liam, Prince Frederic, Prince Duncan, Prince Gustav—erroneously dubbed Prince Charming and rudely marginalized in their respective fairy tales form an unlikely team when they stumble upon an evil plot that could endanger each of their kingdoms. *First in the League of Princes series. Gr. 3+*

Ella Enchanted / Gail Carson Levine

Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her. *See also others by this author. Gr. 4+*

Fairest / Gail Carson Levine

In a land where beauty and singing are valued above all else, Aza eventually comes to reconcile her unconventional appearance and her magical voice, and learns to accept herself for who she truly is. *Gr. 4+*

Rapunzel: The One with All the Hair / Wendy Maas

Rapunzel and Prince Benjamin are both trapped, one in a tower by an evil witch, the other by his royal duties, but when their paths cross, aided by friends and a little luck, conditions change for them both. *First in the Twice Upon a Time series. Gr. 4+*

Wildwood Dancing / Juliet Marillier

Five sisters who live with their merchant father in Transylvania use a hidden portal in their home to cross over into a magical world, the Wildwood. *Gr. 6+*

Beauty / Robin McKinley

Kind-hearted Beauty grows to love the beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay, and through her love releases him from the spell that turned him from a handsome prince into an ugly beast. *Gr. 6+*

Princess Ben / Catherine Gilbert Murdoch

A girl is transformed, through instruction in life at court, determination, and magic, from sullen, pudgy, graceless Ben into Crown Princess Benevolence, a fit ruler of the kingdom of Montagne as it faces war with neighboring Drachensbett. *Gr. 6+*