Fairy Tale Unit

# Terms you should know…

# Motif: a recurring symbol which takes on a figurative meaning. We see them in books, films, and poems.

# Stereotype: a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

# Literary Lenses: these critical theories allow readers to view a piece a literature through different perspectives, or “lenses,” to absorb as many interpretations of the text as possible.

# Feminist Lens: Looking at literature through the lens with the idea that women are oppressed by patriarchy economically, politically, socially, and psychologically; patriarchal (man in control) ideology is the primary means by which they are kept so. While biology determines our sex (male or female), culture determines our gender (masculine or feminine)

# Marxist Lens: The Marxist school follows a process of thinking called the material dialectic. This belief system maintains that "...what drives historical change are the material realities of the economic base of society, rather than the ideological superstructure of politics, law, philosophy, religion, and art that is built upon that economic base" (Richter 1088). \*\*\*Money & Class=Power\*\*\*

# Psychoanalytical Lens: Psychoanalytic Critics view text as an expression of the personality, state of mind, feelings, and desires of its author. Looks for the distinction between conscious and unconscious motives of characters and author. Consider the author’s personality to explain and interpret a text. What psychological theories are present in the characters (Oedipal complex, obsessive compulsive, denial, guilt)?

# New Criticism: Views text as existing independently. Meaning is discovered by doing a close reading and not by examining outside sources. Focuses on the meanings and interactions of words, figures of speech, and symbols.

# Historical Lens: Views text as closely related to the time during which an author wrote. Focused on the social, political, economic, cultural, and/or intellectual climate of the time. Examines how other cultures are viewed in terms of an overpowering Western literature base.