

## Fairy Tales Comparison - Inquiry

Compare fairy tales from different cultures. Do as a mini inquiry where you use the following essential questions to guide their inquiry:

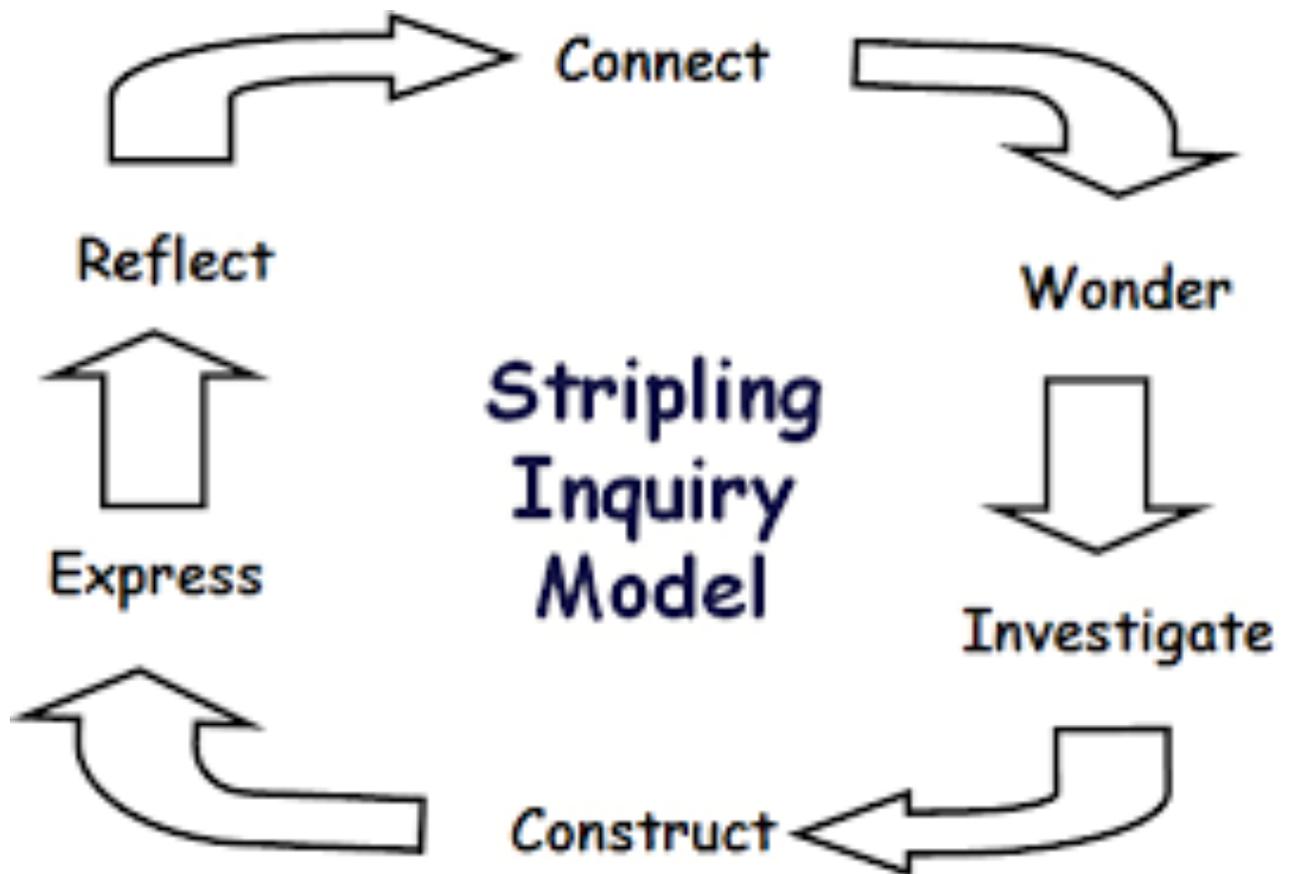
*How do different cultures shape the definitions of good and evil?*

*What is the role of a hero or "sheroe" (coined by Maya Angelou) in a culture?*

*What is the relevance of a fairy tale to today's society?*

*How have fairy tales opened our eyes to other cultures?*

Then have students work through the inquiry process:



## Fairy Tale Inquiry Continued:

I suggest working through two books together first as a class while you model the Inquiry process with them:

**Wonder:** Pose one or more of the essential questions to your class:  
How do different cultures shape the definitions of good and evil?  
How have fairy tales opened our eyes to other cultures?

### **Investigate:**

Read two books to the class, one Chinese fairy tale and then one contemporary similar story. Think about the two essential questions, how do the books help us answer these questions?

### **Construct:**

Construct new understanding connected to previous knowledge they have about fairy tales and the culture they represent. Draw initial conclusions about the questions.

**Express:** Express what they have learned – this can be as simple as a writing activity at this stage.

**Reflect:** Reflect on their learning; ask some new questions they may have.

## NOW REPEAT!

Divide students into groups. Have them read two or three more fairy tales from different cultures.

The “Wonder” is still the initial essential questions, but it is also the questions that they generated during their reflection. When they get to construct, they can now connect to the original books.

**\*\*You can choose to do it independently. Or I suggest groups, sort of literature circle style. Even having different groups do different books and then having groups EXPRESS (share) back. Then have students independently reflect!\*\***

**Suggested Chinese Fairy Tales:**

*Yeh-shen* (Cinderella) retold by Ai-Ling Louie

*Lon Po Po* (Red Riding Hood) by Ed Young

The Emperor and the Kite - Jane Yolen

**Suggested books to include from other cultural perspective:**

The Rough-Face Girl - Rafe Martin - Algonquin Indian Folklore, a version of Cinderella that takes place by the shores of Lake Ontario

The Korean Cinderella - Shirley Climo

The Egyptian Cinderella - Shirley Climo

Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella - Robert D. San Souci

Adelita - Tomi dePaola (Mexican Cinderella)

Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa

- Niki Daly

Petite Rouge - Mike Artell