Common Elements of Fairy Tales

• Do NOT need to include fairies.

• Set in the past—usually significantly long ago. May be presented as historical fact from the past.

• Include fantasy, supernatural or make-believe aspects.

• Typically incorporate clearly defined good characters and evil characters.

• Involves magic elements, which may be magical people, animals, or objects. Magic may be positive or negative.

• May include objects, people, or events in threes.

• Focus the plot on a problem or conflict that needs to be solved.

• Often have happy endings, based on the resolution of the conflict or problem.

• Usually teach a lesson or demonstrate values important to the culture.