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### **Abstrakt**

Die moderne Märchen sind von Volksmärchen von der Brüder Grimm und Perrault angepasst. Sie sind ähnlich mit den Kinder- und Hausmärchen. Die Figuren sind entwickelt. Es gibt gute und schlechte Figuren. Die Zielgruppe findet über Figuren Leben. Die moderne Märchen antworten die Fragen, die die Brüder Grimm unbeantwortet gelassen haben. Sie zeigen die Themen über tägliches Leben aus. „Once Upon a Time“ und „Grimm“ sind Beispiele über moderne Märchen. Sie sind ähnlich wie Volksmärchen geschrieben. Im „Once Upon a Time“ gibt es zwei Welten. Es gibt die übernatürliche Welt und die natürliche Welt. Im „Grimm“ gibt es eine Welt. Die übernatürlichen Figuren leben mit natürlichen Figuren. Diese Shows haben andere Absichten. Es gibt Diskussionen über politische und soziale Aspekte in modernen Märchen. Sie wollen gute Einschaltquoten um Geld zu verdienen. Die Hausmärchen lehren Regeln der Moral. In diesen Shows sind die Figuren imperfekt, aber echt. Die Zielgruppe hat keine Lieblingsfiguren. Sie lernen die bösen Figuren kennen. Diese Figuren sind immer nicht schlecht. Die Zielgruppe macht ihre Meinungen über diese Figuren. Diese Volksmärchen sind noch beliebt. Die Leute schauen diese Shows an, weil sie bekannte Gesichter sind. Beide ältere und jüngere Leute schauen diese Shows an. „Once Upon a Time“ hat starke Frauenfiguren. Sie sind kein „Jungfrau in Nöten.“ Die Prinzen sind nicht stereotypisch. Ihre Verantwortung ist nicht nur zu sparen die Prinzessinnen. Im „Grimm“ sind die Volksmärchen historische Fakten. Es gibt einen Krieg zwischen den Grimms und den „Blutbade.“ Es gibt ein geläufiges Thema zwischen beiden Shows. „Gut besiegt immer Böses.“

## Die moderne Märchen

Ask anyone what his/her favorite fairytale was as a child and he/she would be able to answer without hesitation. Fairytales are dated past the ancient times. No one knows the original versions of these fairytales even the Grimms edited and added to the stories. These stories were at first not recorded but rather passed down through word of mouth. Fairytales were combinations of previous stories and imagination [9]. Their primary purpose was to give the audience a moral lesson. They gave hints to the worldview of the time. Due to the story's length, the characters were not well developed, and the audience had to form opinions and draw conclusions on their own. This fact has led many popular writers and TV producers to creating TV shows and movies about fairytales. Disney is the best example of this transition to the modern fairytale.

Disney took popular fairytales such as the Grimms' "Sneewittchen" and Perrault's "Cinderella" and adjusted them to fit the time period in which they were released. The modern fairytales definitely reflect the current time period. They reflect common everyday themes of life [10]. However, today fairytales serve a different purpose than during the time of the Grimms. Today it is the producers and writers' incentive to profit from these shows. In order to be successful, the writers must develop these well beloved characters so that the audience will be captured and want to watch every week. "Once Upon a Time" and "Grimm" bring to life many famous fairytales adding their own modern twist and successfully developing these beloved characters into relatable people.

"Once Upon a Time" combines all famous fairytales into one collaborated script. The writers have taken completely separate fairytales and related each and every character to one another. The setting is in two worlds: the fairytale or supernatural world and the

natural world. The main plot describes the fairytale characters of Storybrooke who do not know of their true identity and for some supernatural reason, these figures cannot leave Storybrooke. There are constant flashbacks in each episode to describe a character's life his/her relationship to the other characters.

The tales have always been separate and the audience has never considered if whether the fairytale characters could live together in the same world. The writers have intricately connected countless fairytales from "Beauty and the Beast" to "Alice and Wonderland." For example, the Beast is Rumpelstilzchen and he falls in love with Belle. However, the Queen wants to retain power over him. She captures Belle and tells Rumpelstilzchen that she has died [9]. These shows also address an interesting inquiry. Why the evil characters are so evil in the first place? But like any show there must be one central protagonist and in "Once Upon a Time," the lead is Emma Swan.

Emma Swan is the one of the only people that can leave Storybrooke. Her son Henry whom she gave up for adoption finds her. Henry tells her that she needs to come back to Storybrooke with him in order to save the town from a terrible curse. Emma takes advantage of this moment in order to get to know the son that she gave up a long time ago. She comes into Storybrooke and strange things begin to occur. Time, which seems to have stopped is now moving again. Henry tells Emma that she is the savior and shows her his book "Once Upon a Time" and describes how everyone in the town is fairytale characters. He tries to explain to her that she is the daughter of Snow White and Prince James (Charming). She is very cynical and skeptical of this because Henry tells her that Snow White is his schoolteacher, Mary Margaret Blanchard, who is around Emma's age.

Emma is far from being the typical fairytale princess. She is no damsel in distress. Her profession is in law enforcement from being a bond bailman in Boston to the Sheriff of Storybrooke. Her past experiences have made her closed off from developing relationships with others. The more time she spends with Henry the more she wants to be a part of his life permanently especially after all the strange occurrences with Regina (Henry's adopted mother). She is a very real relatable character who is very well developed [5]. She believes that no one especially Regina should dictate what others do. Regina and Emma certainly have their differences but the connection between them causes all the action in Storybrooke.

Regina is the evil queen, who everyone loves to hate. She is almost a combination of Maleficent from Sleeping Beauty and Snow White's Evil Stepmother [8]. Her selfishness causes her to curse all of the fairytale characters. If she cannot have a happy ending, then no one can. Although she tries to pretend that she is ignorant in the beginning, Regina is supposed to be one of the only people, who knows the truth of the true identities of Storybrooke citizens. However, little does she know that Henry is making connections between the characters in his book and the people of Storybrooke.

One fact though that can be appreciated by the audience is that Regina's story behind why she is so evil is slowly revealed. Without spoiling too much, Regina's mother was just as evil and manipulative if not more and forbid her from marrying her true love due to his social status. Snow White indirectly took part in this incident and Regina forever hated her. She did anything to make Snow White's life miserable in both the fairytale world and in Storybrooke. Despite her wretchedness, the audience at some points cannot help but sympathize with her. She actually is comparable to Emma in that she has lost all love in her

life. However, the manner that she abuses her power is unforgiveable. Both characters have ways of protecting themselves from being hurt, but also from being loved.

Another fearless woman is Snow White (Mary Margaret Blanchard). She is far from the naïve weak Snow White, who the Grimms and Disney first depicted. During the flashbacks, the audience witnesses Snow White's bravery and fighting skills. She even has to save her prince at times in both the supernatural and natural world. However, she has to go through many hardships involving Regina and does not understand exactly why she is constantly being targeted. Mary Margaret does not have any idea that she is Emma's mother, but when Emma moves in with Mary Margaret, they quickly become as close as family.

When Snow White meets her Prince, it is far from love at first sight. She is almost perturbed by him. Her independent warrior characteristics are prevalent. She does not meet the dwarves by breaking into their house but rather they help each other break out of prison. The dwarves and the prince do not need to fight her battles but some of her accomplishments could not have been achieved without their help. She is also not the picture perfect princess. She like Emma is a very genuine character. Her development shines through the script writing and her portrayal. The writers did not intend to write a "storybook" Snow White but rather a strong woman who's willing to fight for those she loves and for what she believes [4].

"Once Upon a Time" is known for its strong women whether they be good or evil. Although the male characters are more developed than the traditional fairytale male characters, the princes' primary role is no longer to be at the right place at the right time in order to save the princess. The princes go through their own trials in both the fairytale

world and in Storybrooke. Rumpelstilzchen (Mr. Gold) embodies the entire character that the Grimms created. He is cunning and constantly making “deals” that always come at a price. However, like Regina, the audience learns how Rumpelstilzchen acquired his power and that there was a time in his life where he loved someone other than himself [2]. “Once Upon a Time” answers questions that authors such as the Grimms and Perrault left out [3].

In contrast, “Grimm” brings out the darker side of the Grimm tales combining an ancient myth with common fairytales such as “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” and “Rotkäppchen”. The first episode the audience sees a girl running in the woods wearing a red hood much like the innocent “Rotkäppchen” before she is attacked and completely eaten by a werewolf. There is no distinction between the supernatural and natural world. The “Blutbade” or Werewolves live among humans in disguise to everyone except Nick Burkhardt who is a descendent of a long line of fighters against the werewolves called Grimms. He starts seeing strange things such as people transforming into horrible beasts. He does not learn of his heritage until his aunt visits and tells him that the very creatures he has been seeing are chasing her. She tells him also that he is the last of the Grimms and that the safety of humanity is dependent on him [6].

Nick is skeptical at first to his heritage and the burdens that comes with it. However, he wants to learn as much as he can about the history of the Grimms and werewolves. He knows how illogical this whole war sounds so he decides not to tell his girlfriend or close friends to keep them safe. He attempts to solve the werewolf issue by hunting down each one. However, he runs into a nonaggressive werewolf, Monroe who has forgone eating humans and turned into a “vegetarian.” Monroe teaches Nick all he needs to know about werewolves and their characteristics.

Nick is a very admirable character. Besides being a Grimm, he is a police investigator. He exemplifies valiant traits and wants to sincerely help people. He is the guy who the audience supports and hopes that he has a happy ending. However, he is very naïve to the evil works that are going on at his job. People that he trusts are actually werewolves acting to defeat him and gain immense power.

Each episode Nick gets closer to finding out the complete story of the Grimms and werewolves and how to defeat them. He is a relatable character, who is not flawless. The audience is allowed to know more information than Nick making it difficult to watch Nick always be one step behind the werewolves. Though he would not even be able to compete with the werewolves without Monroe.

Monroe is the comic relief of the entire show. He possesses character traits that are not present in the historical fairytales. A bad werewolf turned good is nonexistent in *Folksmärchen*. No previous fairytale has a character, who has transformed from evil to good. With lack of character development, fairytale characters had to be on one side or the other. However, the good characters could have performed mischievous actions.

Monroe always has good intentions with a clumsy way of doing things. He serves as a good sidekick to Nick. Sidekicks are not depicted in the classical fairytales. The closest characters to sidekicks would be the seven dwarves in "Sneewittchen" or the fairies in "Sleeping Beauty." In most fairytales, the protagonists receive help from nature, or supernatural beings. For example in "Aschenputtel," the birds, which communicate to Aschenputtel, are sending messages from her deceased mother [2].

Although Monroe does not want any part of this war between Nick and the werewolves, he is willing to share his knowledge and help Nick. He almost hopes that his good deeds will resolve him of his past digressions [6]. However, according to the Grimms, this statement is not true. The wicked will be punished and the good rewarded. Similar though to the old fairytale characters, Monroe's character is not complex or deep. The audience pretty much has an idea of what kind of person or creature he is from the very start of the show [7].

As for the rest of the show's werewolves such as Nick's police captain are very familiar characters from studying the Grimm tales of werewolves. They are sly and cunning. They abuse their power in society to get ahead and defeat the Grimms. Nick has a key that the werewolves want although Nick and the audience have no idea what the key unlocks or what power it holds. Similar to the wolf in "Der Wolf die sieben Geißlein," the werewolves disguise themselves as normal human beings while making plans to defeat Nick and end humanity [2]. However, Nick is not far behind and he is constantly causing obstacles in their evil plans. Although the show is set in Portland, Oregon, the werewolves have connections with other werewolves all over the world confirming their world domination plan. However, the audience knows that in the end good will prevail over evil. Depending on how many seasons of the show are made will determine how quickly the werewolves will be defeated [8].

Both shows prove that happy endings do not happen in forty minutes. These shows have made fairytale characters more relatable and human despite supernatural characteristics. The Grimm tales leave the audience with many questions and are so short that the audience has to make quick judgments on the characters. However, the traditional



fairytale served their purpose and that was to teach a moral lesson. The tale was styled in such a way that the audience could identify the main protagonist and determine whether he or she was good or evil.

The people reading the Grimms' tales during this time period would have understood all of the political and social aspects referenced in the fairytales. Political and psychoanalytical analysis is researched on old fairytales, and all the scholars from Freud to Bettelheim have an opinion. Although as extensive as the research may be, no one can fully decipher all of the symbols hidden in the stories. Sometimes too much research can destroy the overall purpose of the genre [11].

Modern fairytales created through the television scripts of "Once Upon a Time" and "Grimm" do not serve the same purpose nor are analyzed as the old works of the Grimms and Perrault. If analysis was performed on these modern fairytales, scholars might reference the current economic issues and see these stories as a way that people can retreat from their problems. To some people, this statement may be the case, but for most, the shows act simply as entertainment. Television is a business. If people did not watch the shows, then they would be canceled [8].

Disney was the first to create movies out of fairytales and recently, these movies have been rereleased into theaters with better graphics and a polished finish. However since Disney launched an empire, fairytales have been further developed. In 2012, two separate movies on Snow White will be released "Mirror Mirror" and "Snow White and the Huntsman." "Mirror Mirror" is mainly based off the Grimms' version, and they are even credited as the main writers. This movie is family friendly and introduces humor to the old tale. "Snow White and the Huntsman" is more of an action packed drama. Snow White is

depicted as a warrior who fights against the evil queen. The special effects and scene depictions bring much intensity to the old tale. The current generation experienced most of the fairytales as a child and now can relive their childhood through more matured versions.

Although the creators may not mean to teach the audience any lesson, the moral lessons are still present in each tale. The creators do not mean for the shows to be simple retelling of stories, but to develop deeper connections between the characters and the audience. Fairytales make old myths more relatable without eliminating imagination [10]. Audiences continue to be drawn to this genre whether for an escape or because of its familiarity. Maria Tatar describes how these tales capture people's attention:

Fairy tales are up close and personal, mixing fact with fantasy to tell us about our deepest anxieties and desires. They offer road maps pointing the way to romance, and riches, power, and privilege, most importantly to a way out of the woods, back to safety and security of home [10].

Audiences across the world want a happy ending. However, everyone's definition of a happy ending can be very different. Some may want true love while others want successful and lucrative careers. All of which are presented in fairytales and the journey to the happy ending is described. As seen in "Once Upon a Time" and "Grimm", happy endings are not immediate similar to in reality.

By developing strong characters such as Emma and Nick, the audience can relate to either or both. The connection that the audience has with the characters keeps them watching every week. These modern fairytales do not take place of the original tales but

rather enrich it further. Characters are no longer stereotypes but actual people [1]. Similar to how stories were passed down and adapted, these tales are altered and developed. Even among the supernatural characters, the audience finds aspects of normal people [11].

Fairytales are world known. Each culture has its own set of tales. These beloved characters will continue to be immortal in both traditional and modern tales. Their popularity in shows such as "Once Upon a Time" and "Grimm" will continue to make modern fairytales successful.

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