

The main things to glean from this lecture:

- 1) What is Bettelheim's theory about fairy tales?
- 2) What are the Freudian stages of psychosexual development?
- 3) How do fairy tales relate to those stages?

**NOTE: If students have conflicts with their final exams, they need to contact the Registrar's office:**<http://registrar.mit.edu/exams.html>

THE BOOK: Bettelheim, Bruno (1975) The uses of enchantment : the meaning and importance of fairy tales. New York : Knopf

THE STAGES: ORAL----ANAL----PHALLIC (OEDIPAL)----LATENCY----ADULT

Fairy Tales

What kind of stories are these for little kids?

The thesis of this lecture:

What is a "fairy tale"

The Grimm brothers

Tales tend to have certain characteristics:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Who knows the psychological content of these tales? (assuming it is there)

How does that content evolve?

The example of the evil stepmother

Hansel and Gretel (what stage and why?)

Jack and the Beanstalk

Classic Oedipal tales

IF TIME: The Ultimate MIT Fairy Tale (Tool and Die?)

Female Oedipal stories are interestingly different.

Snow White:

Red Riding Hood

Beauty and the Beast