



# Fabricate A Fractured Fairy Tale!

## with author April Jones Prince

### What is a fractured fairy tale?

Ahoy, writers! Did you enjoy *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*? I hope the story might inspire you to do some writing of your own.

*Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates* is a fractured fairytale. A fairy tale is a traditional story or type of folktale that often features magical creatures or objects. To “fracture” something means to break it... so a **fractured fairy tale** is one that has been broken and changed in some way so that it is similar, yet different, from the original.

In *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*, I fractured the traditional story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In the original tale, Goldilocks is a mischievous (or simply ill-mannered!) girl who wanders through the forest and into the home of the three bears. She eats their porridge, breaks a chair, and falls asleep in Baby Bear’s bed. When the bears come home, they discover her and what she’s done. Goldilocks runs off, never to be seen again.

It always bothered me that Goldilocks was so rude—breaking things and running away...

So in *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*, I made Goldenlocks a lonely but can-do girl who lives by the sea. She takes her boat for a row in the harbor, where she clammers onto a creaky pirate ship. She eats and improves the pirates’ gruel, breaks and fixes Baby Pirate’s stool, and mends and re-hangs Baby’s hammock before falling asleep there. When the pirates come home and discover Goldenlocks and what she’s done, they’re angry. But when Mama thinks about how handy Goldenlocks is, she invites her to stay. Goldenlocks joins the crew, and everyone wins.

Changing the three bears in a cottage to three pirates on a ship changes the setting of the story and some of the important objects (porridge becomes gruel; beds becomes hammocks). The basic plot of the story remains the same, but the ending is different because the characters and setting are different.

Now it’s your turn to plan and write a fractured fairy tale. This activity starts from a plot you already know and allows you to play with your characters, setting, objects, and language—just like I did. First, you’ll choose your type of character and a story to fracture.

Heave ho, mateys! Let’s spin a new yarn!



1. Choose a traditional story and a type of character from the lists below—or come up with your own! Here's what my planner looked like for *Goldenlocks and the Three Pirates*:

<u>Type of Character</u>	<u>Traditional Story</u>
Ninja	Little Red Riding Hood
Farmer	The Three Pigs
Robot	<u>The Three Bears</u>
Alien	The Three Billy Goats Gruff
Cowgirl/boy	The Gingerbread Man
Knight	The Little Red Hen
<u>Pirate</u>	Stone Soup
Student	The Princess and the Pea
Movie star	The Night Before Christmas

2. Brainstorm places, objects, words, actions, etc. that relate to your chosen type of character:

- a. My character type is pirates!
- b. My characters live on a ship, at sea. A seaworthy sloop!
- c. My important objects are treasure, flag, parrot, loot, cannon, eye patch, peg leg, compass,
- d. My characters use these kinds of words, phrases, or language avast!, blimey!, shiver me timbers!, me hearties, walk the plank, mates/mateys, ahoy

3. Fill in the left column in the story organizer below with the tale's original characters, setting, plot points, etc. Then fill in the right side with characters, setting, action, etc. that correspond to your chosen character type. Here's what my organizer looked like:



<b>Original Characters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Goldilocks</li><li>- Three Bears</li></ul>	<b>New Characters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Goldenlocks</li><li>- Three Pirates</li></ul>
<b>Original Setting</b> <p>Forest/cottage</p>	<b>New Setting</b> <p>Sea/seaworthy sloop</p>
<b>Original Object(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Porridge</li><li>- Chairs</li><li>- Beds</li></ul>	<b>New Object(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gruel</li><li>- Stools</li><li>- Hammocks</li></ul>
<b>Original Plot Points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bears go out for a walk</li><li>- Goldilocks enters, eats food, breaks furniture</li><li>- Bears come home</li></ul>	<b>New Plot Points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pirates go out for a row</li><li>- Goldenlocks enters, eats food, fixes furniture</li><li>- Pirates come home</li></ul>
<b>Original Solution</b> <p>Goldilocks runs off</p>	<b>New Solution</b> <p>Goldenlocks stays and becomes part of the crew and gains a family</p>
<b>Original Refrain</b> <p>"Just right"</p>	<b>New Refrain</b> <p>"To a T... Just right"</p>



Now it's your turn!

1. Choose a traditional story and a type of character from the lists below—or come up with your own!

Type of Character

Ninja  
Farmer  
Robot  
Alien  
Cowgirl/boy  
Knight  
Pirate  
Student  
Movie star

Traditional Story

Little Red Riding Hood  
The Three Pigs  
The Three Bears  
The Three Billy Goats Gruff  
The Gingerbread Man  
The Little Red Hen  
Stone Soup  
The Princess and the Pea  
The Night Before Christmas

2. Brainstorm places, objects, words, actions, etc. that relate to your chosen type of character:

a. My character type is \_\_\_\_\_

b. My characters live \_\_\_\_\_

c. My important objects are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. My characters use these kinds of words, phrases, or language \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Fill in the left column in the story organizer below with the tale's original characters, setting, plot points, etc. Then fill in the right side with characters, setting, action, etc. that correspond to your chosen character type.



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Original Characters	New Characters
Original Setting	New Setting
Original Object(s)	New Object(s)
Original Plot Points	New Plot Points
Original Solution	New Solution
Original Refrain	New Refrain

**Now you're ready to write your own fractured fairy tale. You're the author – be creative and have fun!**





If you'd like more inspiration, there are buckets of fabulous fractured fairy tales to explore. Here are some faves:

