

هذا الملخص غير محلل للنشر أو النسخ أو إعادة الصياغة حفاظاً على الأمانة العلمية

**EA300A**  
**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

**Important Questions**

**Critics : Peter Hunt and Jack Zipes**

**Traditional Version : Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.**

**Modern Version : Snow White and The Huntsman.**

متوفر ملخصات (خاصة وحصرية) للشرح وحل  
المهم والمتوقع وحصرية من أساتذة المعهد

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### 1- What are real Children's books according to Hunt?

The true children's books, according to Peter Hunt, are those that are exclusively read by children, contain no adult commentary, and are not subject to adult evaluation. Authors of these authentic children's books address the reader directly, "displaying no awareness that adults may also read the work."

### 2- Peter Hunt says, "Childhood is social construct". What does this mean?

Childhood, as Peter Hunt argues, is something that society creates. Neither the brains nor the bodies of children are fundamentally different from those of adults, nor do they lack the same skills and potential. What this means is that cultural, social, and historical contexts give biological immaturity social implications. How children's literature evolved and the influence it had on children's lives two centuries ago are vastly different from modern Western children's experiences.

According to Hunt, a new world of childhood characterized by children's books, games, and toys emerged in the eighteenth century as a result of the widespread belief in the unique needs of children and the assumption that they were distinct from adults. Depending on historical and cultural contexts, childhood is socially constructed and evolves throughout time. The minds and characters of children, who are neither good nor bad at birth, are malleable and can be changed by instruction and experience.

Children could not be expected to naturally acquire a reasonable and reasoning mind; thus, education was meant to help them do just that. Proper childhood development may occur if children were free from adult corruption and not compelled to leave their "natural" environment in pursuit of "civilization" education. In an ideal world, kids would learn everything they needed to know as they went along, unfettered by adults.

### 1- Compare fairy tales in the 17<sup>th</sup> C to fairy tales in the 19<sup>th</sup> C focusing on how fairy tales change in function and role in socialization.

Jack Zipes claims that fairy tales were created in salons by aristocratic women as parlour games for well-educated adults. Men accepted them slowly, but women accepted them gradually. By the end of the 17th century, ladies and men liked this practice enough to compose and publish stories. Children were moralized by them in the 19th century. The fairy tale was meant to aid socialization. Now they were supposed to educate and entertain.

France had fairy tales. Charles Perrault published the most famous early fairy tales in Paris in 1697. They were first distributed as chapbooks in England in 1729. Rewritten in basic terms, they were easy for youngsters to understand. As the population became more literate, other versions were published, including the most renowned by the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, who released 'Grimms' Fairy Tales' in German in 1812. Children today may learn these from Walt Disney movies rather than their parents.

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**2- What does Zipes claim is the main purpose of fairy tales? How has this purpose changed over the past four centuries?**

Only in the 1820s did they become popular with youngsters because they combined instruction and fun. Children may not have comprehended their implicit messages, but adults approved of their meaning. Zipes says that all fairy tales have been 'contaminated... through cross-cultural and intercultural exchange', resulting in endless versions of the same story. Zipes investigates why humans "respond to these classical tales almost as if we were born with them." Different forms of mass media continue to socially produce and induce them. Zipes calls a fairy tale a meme, or "an informational pattern contained in a human brain and stored in its memory, capable of being copied to another brain that will store and replicate it."

**3- How fairy tales got transformed through an exchange between cultures. Give examples of renovated tales to support your stance.**

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Zipes has extensively discussed the tale's changes across countries and suggested that it remains patriarchal and politically conservative, reflecting and upholding the social ideals of the most powerful elites. The narrative has been recounted in many languages for different audiences. Indian fairy tales include Aladdin. Cross-cultural interchange brought the story to America through Walt Disney's films. Their attire and costumes tell an Indian story.

**4- "The traditional concept of what it means to be a women is challenged in modern fairy tales." Discuss with reference to fairy tales.**

According to Jack Zipes, at the end of the eighteenth century, the "conventional" fairy tales for adults were subverted. A significant movement emerged to write fairy tale parodies for children, turning them inside out and upside down, challenging the conventional wisdom and offering substitute endings that seemed to go against the theme of wonder and transformation that had dominated the wonder folk tale.

In conventional fairy tales, women play weak, subservient roles that adhere to patriarchal norms. These portrayals of women as powerless and docile reflect a regressive viewpoint. In Grimm's version, for instance, Snow White is the object of the queen's retaliation and envy, luring her three times—once with laces, once with a comb, and once with the poisoned apple. Women are portrayed as weak characters who require men's approval and assistance to live their lives, as demonstrated by the Dwarfs and the prince's rescue of Snow White from the queen's seduction. However, the modern retellings of fairy tales distort the original narrative to offer a distinct perspective on the gender of the fairy tale. For instance, Snow White and

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the Huntsman considers how women are typically portrayed in Anglo-American films. Depicted as a malicious queen, Ravenna is from the 'raven' race and aspires to be the most beautiful of them all. Because Ravenna is the queen and the only one with absolute influence over their lives and fates, she disregards patriarchal conventions. The story's variations have been the subject of much writing by Zipes, who contends that despite national variances, the story is fundamentally patriarchal and politically conservative, reflecting and defending the social beliefs of the most powerful elites. As a result, the narrative has been repeated in several languages and for various audiences.

**5- A critic stated that "they should let Snow White stay dead because she wasn't the brightest young thing." Discuss.**

It is evident that Snow White is the story's protagonist in the classic adaptations of the tale. She must possess courage and strength in order to vanquish the wicked queen. She eventually succumbed to the queen's temptations, avenging herself and causing jealousy, before passing away. She is subsequently saved. Consequently, some critics disagree, arguing that the heroines need to rely more on themselves than on others and shouldn't need to be saved.

**6- The link between beauty and goodness and between ugliness and evil is reflected through Snow White both versions. Discuss and give examples.**

Traditional fairy tales often feature good one and bad one who are at odds with one another throughout the story's events. In the end, the good one usually come out on top. Key to the story of Snow White and the Huntsman is the theme of vanity, which influences the queen's every move—she stands in front of the mirror for hours on end, and she even orders the Huntsman to murder Snow White because of her vanity. Because her name is derived from the word "raven," the queen Ravenna gives the impression that she is mentally and spiritually corrupt. Her garb, which includes a crown on her forehead, represents a corrupt spirit and death. Ravenna wants to maintain her youthful beauty and beauty to obtain power. In Disney's adaptation, Snow White's stepmother is a powerful witch who wields black magic. Additionally, we witness her transforming into a hideous old woman like a witch and concocting the Apple poison. In contrast, Snow White represents her virtue and attractiveness. Because he judges the queen and Snow White by their reflection, the mirror serves as a symbol of masculine dominance in the film. After all was said and done, the fall of the queen symbolized and solidified the triumph of the good.

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## 7- Comment on Snow White's speech to the crowd in the modern version "Snow White and the Huntsman".

### The Speech:

"All these years, all I've known is darkness. But I've never seen a brighter light than when my eyes just opened (freedom). And I know that light burns in all of you! (freedom, revenge, claiming for rights, revolution) Those embers must turn to flame (the feelings of strength and revenge should be actions). Iron into sword! I will become your weapon (leader)! Forged with a fierce fire that I know is in your hearts! For I have seen what she sees, I know what she knows. I can kill her. and I'd rather die today than live another day of this death! And who will ride with me? Who will be my brother?" The crowd shouts 'T' simultaneously and kneel before her with the Huntsman joining.

Snow White's impassioned speech in "Snow White and the Huntsman" is a powerful moment that marks her transformation from a captive princess to a formidable leader. Her words resonate with themes of freedom, revenge, and the assertion of rights, reflecting a call to arms and a desire for revolution. The metaphor of turning embers into flames and iron into a sword symbolizes the collective strength and determination within the oppressed community. Snow White's willingness to become the people's weapon and lead the charge against the oppressive queen showcases her newfound courage and determination. The crowd's simultaneous shout of 'Aye' and their symbolic gesture of kneeling signify their allegiance to Snow White's cause, turning the moment into a stirring call for unity and resistance, with the Huntsman joining in solidarity.

## 8- In the modern version of Snow White and the Huntsman, the queen's obsession with beauty is a driving force behind the narrative's conflict.

In "Snow White and the Huntsman," the narrative's central conflict is set in motion by the queen's terrible obsession with beauty. The story's primary conflict and Ravenna's wicked deeds are both driven by her obsessive quest for everlasting beauty. She uses the young ladies of the kingdom as a resource in her relentless pursuit of beauty and youth. She becomes an intimidating enemy due to her preoccupation, which also shows how harmful societal expectations and the chase of superficial ideals can be. A thematic element that adds complexity to the story is the contrast between the queen's obsession with outward beauty and the movie's focus on Snow White's inner strength and endurance. This contrast highlights the consequences of vanity and the transformational power of genuine bravery.

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Good Luck.