

Snow white



Snow White – Roald Dahl

When little Snow-White's mother died
The King, her father, up and cried
"Oh, what a nuisance! What a life!
Now I must find another wife."
(It's never easy for a King
To find himself that sort of thing.)
He wrote to every magazine
And said, "I'm looking for a Queen."
At least ten thousand girls replied
And begged to be the royal bride
The king said with a shifty smile
"I'd like to give each one a trial."
However, in the end he chose
A lady called Miss Maclahose
Who brought along a curious toy
That seemed to give her endless joy.
This was a mirror framed in brass
A MAGIC TALKING LOOKING GLASS
Ask it something day or night
It always got the answer right
For instance, if you were to say
"Oh Mirror, what's for lunch today?"
The thing would answer in a trice
"Today it's scrambled eggs and rice."
Now every day, week in week out
The spoiled and stupid Queen would shout
"Oh Mirror Mirror on the wall
Who is the fairest of them all?"
The Mirror answered every time
"Oh Madam, you're the Queen sublime
You are the only one to charm us
Queen, you are the cat's pyjamas."

For ten whole years the silly Queen
Repeated this absurd routine
Then suddenly, one awful day
She heard the Magic Mirror say
"From now on Queen, you're number
two
Snow-White is prettier than you."
The Queen went absolutely wild
She yelled, "I'm going to scrag that
child."
"I'll cook her flaming goose, I'll skin her
I'll have her rotten guts for dinner."
She called the Huntsman to her study

She shouted at him, "Listen, buddy,
You drag that filthy girl outside
And see you take her for a ride
Thereafter slit her ribs apart
And bring me back her bleeding heart."
The Huntsman dragged the lovely child
Deep deep into the forest wild
Fearing the worst, poor Snow-White
spake
She cried, "Oh please give me a
break."
The knife was poised, the arm was
strong
She cried again, "I've done no wrong."
The Huntsman's heart began to flutter
It melted like a pound of butter.
He murmured, "Okay, beat it, kid."
And you can bet your life she did
Later, the Huntsman made a stop
Within the local butcher's shop
And there he bought, for safety's sake
A bullocks heart and one nice steak
"Oh Majesty! Oh Queen," he cried
"That rotten little girl has died.
And just to prove I didn't cheat
I've brought along these bits of meat."
The Queen cried out, "Bravissimo
I trust you killed her nice and slow."
Then (this is the disgusting part)
The Queen sat down and ate the heart
(I only hope she cooked it well
Boiled heart can be as tough as hell)

While all this was going on
Oh where, oh where had Snow-White
gone?
She'd found it easy, being pretty
To hitch a ride into the city
And there she'd got a job, unpaid
As general cook and parlour-maid
With seven funny little men
Each one not more than three foot ten
Ex horse-race jockeys, all of them
These seven dwarfs, though awfully
nice
Were guilty of one shocking vice
They squandered all of their resources
At the race-track backing horses

(When they hadn't backed a winner
None of them got any dinner)
One evening, Snow-White said, "Look here,
I think I've got a great idea
Just leave it all to me, okay,
And no more gambling till I say."
That very night, at eventide
Young Snow-White hitched another ride
And then, when it was very late
She slipped in through the Palace gate
The King was in his counting house
Counting out his money
The Queen was in the parlour
Eating bread and honey
The footmen and the servants slept
So no one saw her as she crept
On tip-toe through the mighty hall
And grabbed THE MIRROR off the wall



As soon as she had got it home
She told the Senior Dwarf (or Gnome)
To ask it what he wished to know
"Go on," she shouted, "Have a go."
He said, "Oh Mirror, please don't joke
Each of us is stony broke
Which horse will win tomorrow's race,
The Ascot Gold Cup Steeple-chase?"
The Mirror whispered sweet and low
"The horse's name is Mistletoe."
The Dwarfs went absolutely daft
They kissed young Snow-White fore and aft
Then rushed away to raise some dough
With which to back old Mistletoe
They pawned their watches, sold the car
They borrowed money near and far
(For much of it they had to thank
The Manager of Barclays Bank)



They went to Ascot and of course
For once they backed the winning horse
Thereafter, every single day
The Mirror made the bookies pay
Each Dwarf and Snow-White got a share
And each was soon a millionaire
Which shows that gambling's not a sin
Provided that you always win.

Snow white

Once upon a time there lived a lovely princess with fair skin and blue eyes. She was so fair that she was named Snow White. Her mother died when Snow White was a baby and her father married again. This queen was very pretty but she was also very cruel. The wicked stepmother wanted to be the most beautiful lady in the kingdom and she would often ask her magic mirror, "Mirror! Mirror on the wall! Who is the fairest of them all?" And the magic mirror would say, "You are, Your Majesty!" But one day, the mirror replied, "Snow White is the fairest of them all!" The wicked queen was very angry and jealous of Snow White. She ordered her huntsman to take Snow White to the forest and kill her. "I want you to bring back her heart," she ordered. But when the huntsman reached the forest with Snow White, he took pity on her and set her free. He killed a deer and took its heart to the wicked queen and told her that he had killed Snow White. Snow White wandered in the forest all night, crying.

When it was daylight, she came to a tiny cottage and went inside. There was nobody there, but she found seven plates on the table and seven tiny beds in the bedroom. She cooked a wonderful meal and cleaned the house and tired, finally slept on one of the tiny beds. At night, the seven dwarfs who lived in the cottage came home and found Snow White sleeping. When she woke up and told them her story, the seven dwarfs asked her to stay with them. When the dwarfs were away, Snow White would make delicious meals for them. The dwarfs loved her and cared for her. Every morning, when they left the house, they instructed her never to open the door to strangers.

Meanwhile, in the palace, the wicked queen asked, "Mirror! Mirror on the wall! Who is the fairest of them all?"

The mirror replied, "Snow White is the fairest of them all! She lives with the seven dwarfs in the woods!" The wicked stepmother was furious. She was actually a witch who knew how to make magic potions. She now made a poisonous potion and dipped a shiny red apple into it. Then she disguised herself as an old peasant woman and went to the woods with the apple. She knocked on the cottage door and said "Pretty little child! Let me in! Look what I have for you!" Snow White said, "I am so sorry, old lady, I cannot let you in! The seven dwarfs have told me not to talk to strangers!" But then, Snow White saw the shiny red apple, and opened the door. The wicked witch offered her the apple and when she took a bite poor Snow White fell into a deep sleep. The wicked stepmother went back to the palace and asked the mirror, "Mirror! Mirror on the wall! Who is the fairest of them all?" The mirror replied, "You are, Your Majesty!" and she was very happy.

When the seven dwarfs came home to find Snow White lying on the floor, they were very upset. They cried all night and then built a glass coffin for Snow White. They kept the coffin in front of the cottage. One day, Prince Charming was going past the cottage and he saw Snow White lying in the coffin. He said to the dwarfs, "My! My! She is so beautiful! I would like to kiss her!" And he did. Immediately, Snow White opened her eyes. She was alive again! The Prince and the seven dwarfs were very happy. Prince Charming married Snow White and took her to his palace and lived happily ever after.

Assignment

For this assignment you will work together in groups of two or three. You can work on the assignment this lesson and the next. At the end of the next lesson you have to hand in your script (written on paper or send it by email; j.slob@hetassink.nl).

First answer the following questions. Then you will write a play script of the Snow white-story. You can be as creative as you want, so you don't necessarily have to follow the traditional storyline. The script needs to have **at least 50 lines**.

Make sure you write it as a real script (see the example). Remember to put in the names of the characters, write down what the characters are doing, describe the surroundings etc.

Good luck!

Questions:

1. Who are the main characters?

2. How is Snow White related to the evil Queen?

3. What exactly does the evil Queen ask her mirror?

4. What does the mirror reply?

5. Where does Snow White run off to when she runs away from the Queen?

6. What is the poisoned fruit that the evil Queen gives Snow White?

7. Why does the evil Queen think Snow White is dead?

8. How does the evil Queen know Snow White is still alive?

Example script:

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, a king and queen ruled over a distant land. One winter day, the queen was doing needle work while looking through the window, when a bird flew by distracting the queen and she pricked her finger. A single drop of blood fell on the snow outside her window. As she looked at the blood on the snow she said.

QUEEN: Oh, how I wish that I had a daughter that had skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony.

NARRATOR: The queen got her wish when she gave birth to a baby girl who had skin white as snow, lips red as blood, and hair black as ebony. They named her Snow White, but sadly, the queen died . Soon after, the king married a new woman who was beautiful, but proud and cruel. She had studied dark magic and owned a magic mirror, of which she would daily ask.

STEP-MOTHER: Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the most beautiful of them all?.

MIRROR: You, my Queen, are the most beautiful of them all.

NARRATOR: This pleased the queen. She knew that her magical mirror could speak only the truth. One morning the queen asked.

STEP-MOTHER: Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the most beautiful of them all?.

MIRROR: You, my queen, are the most beautiful; it is true. But Snow White is even more beautiful than you.

NARRATOR: The Queen was angry and ordered her huntsman to take Snow White into the woods to be killed.

STEP-MOTHER: Go to the forest, take the girl and kill her!. And as a proof, bring me her heart!. Ha,ha,ha,ha.

HUNTSMAN: Yes, my Queen, I will do as you say.

NARRATOR: The poor huntsman took Snow White into the forest, but could not kill her.

HUNTSMAN: Snow White, I cannot do this, you have to escape, go, run, run!.

Etc etc...