

Gather a selection of traditional tales which feature human characters, e.g. Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Peter Pan, etc.

### Discuss

- What adjectives would you use to describe the main characters in these stories?
- Are there recurring themes for female/male characters in terms of how they are described?
- How would it change the story if the characters' gender changed? (Male characters became female and vice versa).
- How would it make you feel when you read the story with the genders changed?
- Do the adjectives still feel right when used for people of a different gender?
- Does this tell us anything about how men and women are portrayed in traditional tales?
- Does this tell us anything about gender stereotyping?

### Activity

Following the discussion, get each child to choose a character from a traditional tale and write a description of a gender-swapped version. Descriptions should be positive. Children can then read/share their work and discuss the challenges and how it made them feel to write about their character as a different gender.

Choose a character from a traditional tale and change their gender. (You can use the pictures below for inspiration or think of a different character from another traditional tale).

Write a positive description of this character, focusing on their skills, attributes and characteristics.



After writing your character description consider...

- Does changing the gender of the character change how you feel about them?
- Does it tell you anything about gender in traditional tales?

A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, intended for writing.

Handwriting practice area consisting of 12 horizontal dotted lines.