



## Snow White teacher's resource sheet

### History of Pantomime

This article from the V&A tells you about the history of pantomime:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/victorian-pantomime>

### Our version of the story

This article explains the differences between the original Grimm brothers fairy tale and the Disney movie: <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/04/18/snow-white-story/>

At Harrogate Theatre we update the fairytale used as the basis for our pantomime so it is relevant for today's audiences. In the original story Snow White is awakened from her poisoned slumber by true love's kiss from the Prince. In our version the Prince is Snow White's childhood friend. Through the good fairy Ruby Rainbow's magic he appears in Snow White's dream to assure her that everything will be alright if she wakes up and returns to her friends. In the dream Snow reaches out and holds the Prince's hand. His touch then wakes her from her deep slumber.

### Story Tasks

KS1

- Pick a well-known fairytale. Ask your class to work in small groups to create a freeze frame of an alternative ending. Once they have created the freeze frame they can add a line of dialogue for each character.
- Dance is used to help tell the story onstage. Ask the class to come up with five tasks the dwarves do every day. Then in small groups they need to create mimed movement for each of these tasks to a piece of music. Perhaps use *Heigh Ho* or *9 to 5*.

KS2

- Adapt a fairytale for a modern audience. Try imagining the story in the present day – what could the characters be instead of princes and princesses? What kind of human character would a wolf be?
- Write a newspaper report about the mystery of why Snow White has fallen asleep.

### Snow White characters

Ruby Rainbow

She is a good fairy who wants to stop the evil Queen Ethel Burger from being mean to Snow White. To do this she disguises herself as Hunter the Handyman who works at the castle for the wicked Queen.

Snow White	She is a Princess and today is her birthday. Her stepmother is the Queen. The Queen is jealous of her intelligence and beauty and stops her seeing her friend the Prince.
Nora the Nanny	Snow White's nanny growing up and mother to Happy Harry. The <a href="#">Dame</a> . Click the link for information about the history of Dames.
Happy Harry	Harry is the Castle dogsbody and son of Nora. He is the <a href="#">buffoon</a> or fool character. Click the link and scroll down to 'Harlequinade' for the history of this role.
Prince Lee	Queen Ethel Burger banned him from visiting Snow White. It is his birthday today too.
The Magic Mirror	Truth teller. Queen Ethel Burger's favourite possession.
Seven Dwarves	These fellows work in the mines and grind up diamonds to turn into fairy dust.
Queen Ethel Burger	Snow White's evil stepmother. She is jealous of Snow White and wants money, fame and power for herself.

### Character Tasks

KS1:

- Each dwarf is named after a dominant part of their personality. Ask your class to pick a hobby or a feeling and draw and name their own dwarf based on this. For example, Sporty, Crafty, Giggly etc.
- Each character usually has a musical motif which is played each time they come onstage. This is known as a musical sting. Make a variety of sounds with different instruments or vocal sounds and ask the class to suggest what kind of character would enter to that sound. (For example, gentle bells for a fairy's entrance).
- In pairs choose a nursery rhyme and change the words to introduce the audience to one of the dwarves. For example:

*Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are*

*Hello, hello smiley one  
You are Happy having fun*

KS2:

- Create the backstory of Queen Ethel Burger – why is she evil?
- Each character usually has a musical motif which is played each time they come onstage. This is known as a musical sting. Create 10 second musical stings for each character.
- Songs are used in the show to help to tell the story. We use existing pop songs and change the lyrics to fit the story. Pick a pop song and change to the lyrics to introduce the dwarves.

