

ENGL 200: Fairy Tales and Heroic Quests  
Dr. Cothran  
Essay 2

Write a 4-6 page paper in which you look at three different versions of a particular fairy tale or quest story (the Arthurian Legend, The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, etc.). You may choose to research any tale you wish; additionally, any film, artistic, or textual renderings of the story will serve as an acceptable “version” for you to analyze.

In the paper you should do three things (not necessarily in this order):

- a) Analyze the different versions of the story you have chosen. What sorts of different messages, symbols, and beliefs are being presented? (Note: while doing this, please try to avoid repetition; try to keep plot summaries brief.)
- b) Compare/contrast the versions. How are they alike? How are they different? In what way are these similarities and differences significant?
- c) Explore how the messages, symbols, or systems of belief that are embedded within each version reflect the time and culture in which the tale appeared. What does each tale say about the people who loved it, who valued it, who passed it on?

At least one version of the text you have chosen must be a version that you have discovered and read/watched on your own: one that we have not covered in class or read/watched for homework.