

English Y7 Autumn – Heroes and Villains:

Key Vocabulary

Archetype Moral(s) Protagonist Antagonist
Hubris Peripeteia Ambition Honourable
Deceit Betrayal Avarice Conspirator

Did you know?

The Brothers Grimm experienced hunger themselves. In the story of Hansel and Gretel, the children are brought to the forest because their father and mother can no longer feed them. In 1805, 7 years before the first edition of the Grimm's Fairy Tales came out, the brothers' poverty was so extreme that they often had very little food to share.

Julius Ceasar was the first play to be performed at Shakespeare's Globe.

Critics of the day did not like the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. In a letter Jacob Grimm wrote: "Reviewers, who have a habit of praising idiotic things, ought to stop making such foolish statements about our collection of legends and fairy tales."

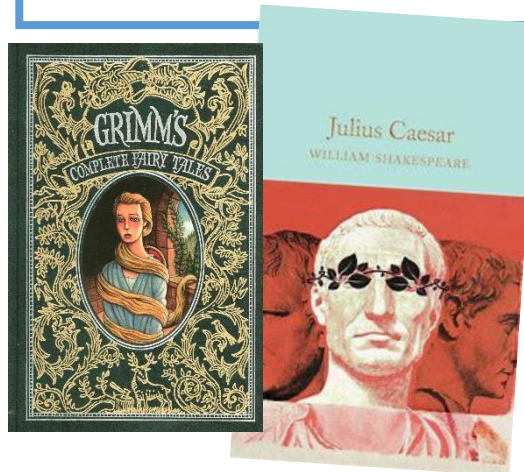
Julius Caesar illustrates similarly the transition in Shakespeare's writing toward darker themes and tragedy.

Further reading and home learning tasks

- Once you have explored the common themes and features of the Brothers Grimm tales, have a go at writing your own story in the same style!
- If you have Disney +, look for the fantastic National Theatre Live: Julius Caesar video!
- Create a poster that would fit well in Shakespeare's Globe, to advertise his new release of Julius Caesar. Hand it to your teacher to have it displayed on your working wall!

Context

This unit has an overarching theme of heroes and villains within changing and diverse societies. For the first part of the term, we will look at the conventional heroes and villains within four selected Brothers Grimm tales (twisted fairy tales and parables). The tales feature themes of ambition, greed, power, betrayal and deceit. For the rest of the term, we will explore Shakespeare's play: Julius Caesar, which features many of the same themes as Brothers Grimm tales.



Who were the Brothers Grimm?

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were German writers (as well as academics, philologists and cultural researchers!) and were two of the best-known storytellers of folk tales that the world has ever known. In the early 1800s, the brothers collected and recorded German folk tales to feed their passionate curiosity about German folklore. The two brothers are credited with popularising some now incredibly famous stories, such as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty. Can you use this space to record any more stories made famous by the Brothers Grimm?

You may have explored the life and work of William Shakespeare at primary school. Can you write down anything you can remember below?

Stylistic features of the Brothers Grimm tales:

Stylistic features of William Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar':

Show your understanding of archetypal heroes and villains by giving a short definition of each below. To really impress, use some of this half term's key vocabulary!

Heroes...

Villains...