

Into the Wild

by Sarah Beth Durst

Lesson Plan: Point of View

In *Into the Wild*, we see the world through Julie Marchen's eyes. Julie is Rapunzel's daughter. Yes, that Rapunzel—long hair, tower, prince. For a junior high school girl who wants to fit in and be normal, having Rapunzel for a mom can create problems. When the Wild (the heart of the fairy tale) begins to devour Julie's entire Massachusetts town, Julie ventures deep into the Wild in order to save her town from becoming a fairy-tale kingdom.

Into the Wild is Julie's story. She's the point-of-view character. In this lesson, we will use a well-known fairy tale to explore how the choice of point-of-view character affects a story.

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GOAL: Learn about the importance of point of view by using a well-known fairy tale to explore how changing the point of view changes the whole story.

PROCEDURE:

1. Discuss what "point of view" means by asking: whose story is it? Whose eyes are we looking through? Use an example of a famous fairy tale, such as Cinderella. (You can substitute any tale your students know, or you could use multiple tales.)
2. Create a list of the characters who are *not* Cinderella (for example, the fairy godmother, the stepmother, the older stepsister, the younger stepsister, the father).
3. For each character, identify their most important scene in their story (for example, the fairy godmother's most important scene is the pre-ball transformation of Cinderella).
4. Each student should pick one of those characters (with corresponding scene).
5. For their chosen character, students should answer the following questions:
 - a. What does your character want in this scene?
 - b. Why does he or she want it?
6. Writing activity: Begin with the very first thought that your character would think at the start of your scene, and then continue through as much as the scene as time allows.

EVALUATE: Students share the first paragraph of their stories and explain their ideas for the rest of the scene. Discuss as a group how changing the point-of-view changed the readers' experience of the story.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES: Students can finish their scene. If there is time, they can then ask themselves "what happens next" and write a scene not from the original tale. (See lesson plan: "Sequels.")