

Whacked Fairy Tales
By Matthew Gutschick

A classroom. There is a chalkboard and a few institutional looking desks. The word "Detention" is scribbled on this chalkboard.

*A student in a hooded sweatshirt sits in the back of the class.
Two girls enter, chatting vivaciously.*

MARY

You said no? That's unbelievable.

KATHERINE

It's totally believable. I wasn't about to go with the homecoming *prince*. It's the king or nothing for me.

MARY

So you will literally stay home if he doesn't ask you?

KATHERINE

No silly. You're going to make sure he asks me.

MARY

How?

KATHERINE

I want you to text him every fifteen minutes. At fifteen past the hour, thirty past and-

MARY

So I'm like a traffic report.

KATHERINE

What are you talking about?

MARY

Nothing, just...go on.

KATHERINE

At fifteen past, thirty past and-

MIKE

(entering)

Hey ladies! Detention. Or as I like to call it "dating service". Do you have a homecoming date yet Mary?

MARY

No.

KATHERINE

Say “yes”.

MARY

I mean, yes.

MIKE

Who?

An awkward silence follows.

KATHERINE

Leave us alone Mike.

All three of them sit, whip out their phones and start playing games/texting. The conversation completely dies.

KATHERINE

I’m so bored. Already.

They are completely engrossed in their devices. Another girl, Samantha, enters listening to her ipod. She sits next to Mike.

MIKE

Awww not an ace of clubs. Come on!

To Samantha.

Have you ever played Texas hold ‘em?

She doesn’t hear him.

Hello...

She still doesn’t hear him.

Oh my god. The school is on fire!

Nobody looks up from their devices. Mike gives up and goes back to beating the dealer in poker.

Mrs. Grassley enters with a big pile of books. She unloads these on a desk and scans the students.

GRASSLEY

Welcome to detention ladies and gentlemen.

Various grumbles.

GRASSLEY

I'm Mrs. Grassley and we are actually going to have a lot of fun today. Now. Your names please?

Nobody looks up.

Okay fine. Give them here. All electronic devices are mine for the next hour.

KATHERINE

What? You can't do that. It's unconstitutional. This is like my second amendment right!

GRASSLEY

It's not and if it was, we would have a bigger problem on our hands. Give them here.

MARY

Just do it Katherine.

They pass theirs in. Mike tries to finish, swinging away from Grassley.

MIKE

Just one more hand. Come on. This is for a million dollars.

She grabs his phone from him.

GRASSLEY

I guess you will have to try the lotto.

She comes to Samantha, who does not notice her. Samantha bops her head and hums along to a Taylor Swift tune.

Ahem. May I please have your ipod?

SAMANTHA

(singing)

YOU BE THE PRINCE AND I'LL BE THE PRINCESS

Grassley removes an earpiece.

IT'S A LOVE STORY BABY JUST SAY YES.

(realizing she was heard)

Stupid song...

GRASSLEY

I'm sure.

I need your ipod.

Now everyone state your name and why you are here.

KATHERINE

I'm Katherine and as far as I can tell I'm being punished for being popular.

MARY

Her phone went off in pre algebra. Twenty-one times.

KATHERINE

Shhh.

GRASSLEY

A truth teller. And who are you?

MARY

My name is Mary.

GRASSLEY

And what are you here for?

MARY

Calling Katherine twenty-one times during pre-algebra.

GRASSLEY

I hope you eventually got through.

And you are sir?

MIKE

My name is Romeo Montague and I'm here for being a lady-slayer.

KATHERINE

Be quiet.

MARY

His name is Mike.

GRASSLEY

I'm glad you have an active imagination. You will need it. Really now.

MIKE

I shouted "royal flush" in the middle of English class. The teacher thought I had to go to the bathroom.

GRASSLEY

Maybe you should have let her live with that illusion. But then you wouldn't be here.

I'm so happy to have you all here.

MARY

(referring to Cheryl in the corner)

What about her?

MIKE

Yeah. What's she in for?

CHERYL

I killed a guy.

Grassley laughs. The others do anything but laugh.

KATHERINE

Okay. We get the idea. You have punished us enough. It's been a minute. Can we just have our cell phones back now?

ALL

Yeah.

GRASSLEY

No. You may not have them back. If I give them back you will simply commence to become five social islands who don't know a thing about one another. This isn't a class about being a social island.

MIKE

This isn't a class at all.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. It's detention.

GRASSLEY

Maybe class is too strong a word. It's an opportunity for you all to get to know one another. And for me to get to know you.

KATHERINE

Why would we want to do *that*?

GRASSLEY

Because for all the connectedness of our world, we are growing increasingly more alone.

MARY

I feel like I'm in church.

GRASSLEY

You need to learn about each other. Not by twittering or facebooking. By talking.

SAMANTHA

I don't like this class.

KATHERINE

It's not a class. It's a joke. She's only kidding.

GRASSLEY

No I'm not.

A long, awkward silence follows.

Somebody want to say something?

Nobody does.

Come on. Each of you has a story to tell.

MIKE

I'm only fourteen.

GRASSLEY

That's fourteen years of stories you have built up.

MIKE

Why should we?

GRASSLEY

Because if you don't, this hour is going to move very slowly.

KATHERINE

Why don't you have to do one?

Snow White

GRASSLEY

You want me to start? That's fine. I'll go first. I'll tell you the story of...Snow White and the seven dwarves.

KATHERINE

That's politically incorrect.

GRASSLEY

You are right. Snow White and the Seven Little People-

KATHERINE

Seven is a lot.

GRASSLEY

Fine. How many little people would *you* like in the story Katherine?

KATHERINE

I'm just saying the story is more believable if the number is three or five.

MIKE

And is there any real reason why they have to be little people?

GRASSLEY

Fine. Snow White and the Three Totally Normal Sized People.

NARRATOR

Snow White lived in the woods with her three friends, Sleepy, Over-caffeinated and...

SAD

Sad.

NARRATOR

Why was she living in the woods with her three friends you might ask? Because she would rather have a mule for a landlord than an- well you get the idea. There was just one problem with living so far out in the country.

OVER

No Starbucks! Snow white, we need to go to town. I'm getting a headache.

SNOW

Maybe if you drank a little less coffee Over-Caffeinated you wouldn't get headaches.

OVER

Oh sure, give up coffee and then what? I'd end up like him!

Sleepy passed out on the floor with his blanket, sucking his thumb.

SNOW

You are right, we can't let this happen to you. Sleepy. Get up. Come on buddy.

OVER

Hey, I know this fun trick with warm water.

SNOW

Stop right there. We will wake him up the right way.

OVER

By kicking him?

SNOW

Gently.

OVER

You're not gonna sing with the forest animals again are you?

SNOW

Nope. Oh Sleepy, wake up. It's time to go to bed.

SLEEPY

Hmmm..what?

SNOW

Let's go. Over-caffeinated is having a breakdown over here. We're going to Starbucks.

SLEEPY

Okay.

SNOW

I feel like we are forgetting someone.

SAD

Don't mind me. I'm totally worth forgetting.

OVER

Sad. We forgot about sad.

SAD

That's right, forget about me. I don't mind.

SNOW

Awww, why are you so sad?

SAD

My Iphone broke.

SNOW

What happened?

SAD

I dropped it.

OVER

I guess there's not an Ap for that. Guess we have to forget about it. I've got a splitting headache and the jitters and-

SAD

So I'm going to stay here.

SNOW

No. I have absolutely had it with your obsessions. I'm not a babysitter. I'm supposed to be your friend.

SAD

I don't have friends-

SNOW

Shut it for a second Sad. I'm venting. I'm sick of the caffeine withdrawal and the constant bedtime and the punch me in the face depression. Why can't you all just be normal and sing with a chorus of forest animals and wait around all day for prince charming to come and show you he's not all that interesting and not all that great of a kisser and the only reason you kissed him in the first place is because it saved your life the first time around...I sound crazy don't I?

OVER

You're asking the wrong person.

SNOW

So we are going to fix all of your problems right now. Give me the apple, Sad.

SAD

Here you go. Not that it does much good-

SNOW

Enough. We are going to get this thing fixed so you can be a normal, stable person.

To Over-caffeinated.

Let's go find a Starbucks.

To Sleepy.

WAKE UP!

Sleepy jerks to attention.

NARRATOR

And so the group set off to find someone capable of fixing Sad's Iphone. Meanwhile, two evil witches, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs (names have been changed to protect the innocent), prepared for Snow White's visit.

GATES

Muhahaha?

JOBS

No, no Bill. You're still not doing it right. MUHAHAHAHA.

GATES

I'm sorry Steve. I just don't know how to laugh maniacally. Some people aren't good at everything

JOBS

Exactly what *are* you good at?

GATES

Look, I curse people with windows.

JOBS

And I curse them with apples. What's your point?

GATES

I'm just saying, if we are going to take down this Snow White chick, we are going to have to put our wits together.

JOBS

Here's what I suggest: we give her a poisoned apple.

GATES

I don't have an Ipod on me.

JOBS

No, no, not one of my terrible products. I mean a *real* poisoned apple.

GATES

That's deliciously nerdy my friend.

JOBS

And she'll never see it coming.

NARRATOR

She will. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Snow White finally showed up to return Sad's phone.

Snow and friends walk in on Gates and Jobs having an evil laugh lesson.

GATES

Muhaha-ow're you doing m'am?

SNOW

Hi I have an Iphone here and it's broken and I'm really hoping you will tell me it cannot

be fixed.

GATES

That's the first time I've heard someone say that.

SNOW

Really. I just want my friends to be normal.

JOBS

Well then you definitely want a PC.

SNOW

I don't want any electronics! I just want you to tell me this thing cannot be fixed so I can slowly wean my friends off of their crutches.

GATES

Noticing the sleeping Sleepy.

Does this guy need crutches or something?

SNOW

He does that from time to time.

GATES

There's not an ap for that.

JOBS

To Gates.

Get the...you know.

GATES

Oh right. Listen madam, we will make a deal. If you eat one bite of this apple I will tell you your friend's Iphone cannot be fixed.

SNOW

An apple. Are you kidding me?

JOBS

Studies say that apples wake you up more than coffee-

Over has already taken the apple by the time he finishes that word.

GATES

No! It's not for you!

JOBS

We're poisoning her!

The two freeze, realizing what they've done.

SNOW

Poisoning?

GATES

Yeah. Haven't you ever heard of a *virus*?

SNOW

Oh no. Over-caffeinated, are you going to be okay?

OVER

I feel calmer and like my heart is...slowing down. Oh a plague on both your houses! I almost feel like I'm...I'm...normal.

SNOW

The poison broke her caffeine addiction! Oh thank you witches. You are truly wonderful! Here, Sleepy, try this apple. It's nutritious and it will wake you up.

SLEEPY

I feel...awake...

SNOW

Hurry! We've got to cure Sad's...sadness.

NARRATOR

And so with that, the young girl ran back to her house in the woods, where Sad was counting dead flowers.

SAD

Two, he hates me. One, he loathes me. Two, he hates me. One-

OVER

Sad, we found a cure for what ails you.

SAD

A rope?

SLEEPY

No silly. An apple.

SNOW

A poisoned apple.

SAD

I always knew it would end this way. Alone.

SNOW

You aren't alone. You are never alone. You are always with people who love you.
You live with us. Your friends.

SAD

Wow. You're right. My life isn't that bad after all. I'm not so sad anymore.

SLEEPY

Hooray. I'm not sleepy anymore.

OVER

And I'm not over-caffeinated anymore!

SAD

So you brought my phone back?

SNOW

No.

SAD

I'm sad.

As the following occurs, the song "You, Me and the Bourgeoisie" by the Submarines crescendos, just like in the Apple 3G commercials:

NARRATOR

Need to bring your friends back to reality? There's an ap for that. An apple that is.

Lights up on the classroom.

GRASSLEY

There. I showed you all one possible way of completing our assignment today. Who wants to go next?

SAMANTHA

Not me.

GRASSLEY

Katherine thank you for volunteering.

SAMANTHA

I didn't.

GRASSLEY

Stand up.

SAMANTHA

No.

GRASSLEY

Or I'll give you a full week of detention.

Katherine stands.

SAMANTHA

Okay... what do I do now?

GRASSLEY

Tell us a story. Any story.

SAMANTHA

I don't have any.

GRASSLEY

Tell us a fantasy story then. A fairy tale.

SAMANTHA

I don't know any.

GRASSLEY

Have you ever seen an old animated Disney movie?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I guess.

GRASSLEY

Then tell us the story of one of those.

SAMANTHA

I don't remember all the details.

GRASSLEY

So make them up!

SAMANTHA

Okay... here is the story of Sleeping Beauty:

There once was a girl... a princess I guess who did nothing but dance around in circles all

day. In a forest.

The story slowly starts to come to life as Samantha tells it.

Sleeping Beauty

MIKE

Was she alone?

SAMANTHA

No, she had three fairy godmothers.

GRASSELY

Names?

SAMANTHA

I don't know.

GRASSELY

Make them up.

SAMANTHA

I can do that?

GRASSELY

Absolutely.

SAMANTHA

Three fairy godmothers named. Flopsy, Mopsy, and Shopsy.

MOPSY

(cleaning up as the girl twirls)

Beauty, you need to stand still! I cannot keep up with you.

SHOPSY

(with shopping bags in tow: Nortstrom, etc.)

That's okay Mopsy. If your mop gets ruined I will simply buy you another.

FLOPSY

(entering and tripping)

Wait for me! What's she doing?

MOPSY

What do you think?

SHOPSY

Same as always.

FLOPSY

Dancing. You have to admire her spirit.

MOPSY

But you don't have to admire her mess.

FLOPSY

She is wearing out her shoes.

SHOPSY

Do I hear Nordstrom in my future? Yes!

BEAUTY

(suddenly stopping)

I'm tired.

(She lies down)

SHOPSY

What was that?

FLOPSY

I think she fell asleep.

MOPSY

(sitting down, fanning herself)

Finally! I need a drink.

SHOPSY

What do you need to drink Mopsy? Lysol disinfectant?

MOPSY

Let's go with the Mr. Clean today.

Shopsy hands her an unlabeled green/yellow Gatorade bottle.

FLOPSY

How long should we let her sleep?

SHOPSY

At least until we can catch our breath.

QUEEN

(in distance)

Yoo-hoo!

SHOPSY

Scratch that. We have to get her up now. That's her mom and dad.

FLOPSY

(tripping over Beauty as she moves D.S. to listen)

The king and queen?

KING

Beauuuuuuty! Where aaare you?

MOPSY

Beauty. Wake up.

SHOPSY

Godma Shopsy will buy you a present if you wake up right now.

FLOPSY

For real kid. Get up.

QUEEN

(still offstage)

Where are you darling!

FLOPSY

Quick. They're coming. We have to think of something!

SHOPSY

(handing her sunglasses)

Put these on her!

They get Beauty ready and lift her up just in time to see the King and Queen. The godmother's have her moving like a puppet through this scene.

KING

There you are darling.

QUEEN

Oh and your lovely godmothers too.

FLOPSY

Oh you know us. Always protecting the young girl.

SHOPSY

And always buying her everything she wants.

MOPSY

And cleaning up after her.

FLOPSY

It must be nice for you two to have no parenting responsibilities whatsoever.

QUEEN

It is. It is.

KING

And how is daddy's favorite girl?

SHOPSY

She's an only child.

MOPSY

(Holding up Beauty's hand, doing Beauty's voice)

How's my favorite daddy?

QUEEN

You're not busy dancing around the forest.

MOPSY

Oh, I am.

The godmothers reluctantly, awkwardly twirl Beauty's sleeping body.

La-di-da-di-da

QUEEN

It's so good to see our little girl happy.

KING

And moving like the breeze.

FLOPSY

A very heavy breeze.

QUEEN

Well, our sweet little girl, continue on with your careless and meaningless life. Mommy and Daddy are ordering pizza for dinner tonight and staying in to watch a play.

MOPSY

(Still doing Beauty's voice)

Oh I love the theatre. What play?

KING

Something called “The Dark Knight”. I just hope it has a joust.

QUEEN

And a joker.

KING

Now give daddy a kiss.

SHOPSY

She’s all kissed out for the day.

MOPSY

All that hot sun. I can barely keep my eyes open.

FLOPSY

You ain’t kidding.

KING

Allright. But I’m not happy about it. Let’s go darling.

QUEEN

So long Beauty. So long, Flopsy, Mopsy and Shopsy. Thanks for taking care of our girl.

FLOPSY

You have no idea...

The godmother’s wave and Beauty “waves”.

ALL

Bye-bye.

They godmothers put Beauty down, propping her against a tree or platform and breathe a sigh of relief.

MOPSY

This kid is becoming a burden.

FLOPSY

That was harder than putting Humpty Dumpty back together again.

SHOPSY

Wake up Beauty! We have to go.

WITCH

(entering)

Going. So soon?

MOPSY

Oh no.

FLOPSY

The evil witch.

WITCH

The proper term is good-challenged. Thank you very much.

SHOPSY

What do you want?

WITCH

Nothing with you overgrown mosquitoes. My business is with Beauty here.

MOPSY

(Throwing her voice again)

You leave me alone

WITCH

That's odd. Your mouth didn't move.

MOPSY

Just went to the dentist. I have a cavity.

Flopsy opens Beauty's mouth.

MOPSY

See?

WITCH

That's disturbing. Almost as disturbing as the constant pitter patter of your feet on my roof. I'm sick of all the dancing through the forest. People live here you know!

FLOPSY

You live underground?

SHOPSY

Like a chipmunk.

WITCH

I've tried earplugs. I've even tried Ambien. I just want to sleep during the daytime so I can go about my business at night. My work is suffering. Snow white just turned purple. The frog prince is now the frog princess. Everything is a mess. Are you

hearing this Beauty?

Beauty lets out a royal snore. The godmothers freeze.

WITCH

What?

FLOPSY

She has allergies.

WITCH

Laughing at me?!

MOPSY

Asthma.

WITCH

I'll show you. I put a curse on you little girl. When I snap my fingers you will sleep until a handsome prince finds you in this forest. Good luck with that by the way. I'll just keep turning all the frogs into princesses. You will sleep forever. Hahaha!

She snaps her fingers and leaves.

FLOPSY

How are we going to explain *this* to the royal parents?

MOPSY

We are done for. I'll be reduced to cleaning hotel rooms for a living.

SHOPSY

I'll have no income. How will I pay off my credit cards. I wonder if the king and queen will give me a bail out...

BEAUTY

Oh that was a good nap.

ALL

What?!

BEAUTY

Was I down very long?

MOPSY

The curse...

SHOPSY

She was already asleep!

ALL

Hooray!

Beauty takes off dancing.

FLOPSY

Oh I'm so glad she will be okay.

MOPSY

Wait a minute. If the curse is reversed.

SHOPSY

Start cleaning mopsy.

ALL

Beauty! Wait for us!

The group exits.

Lights up on the schoolroom. Mike is asleep.

GRASSLEY

Very nice Samantha. I applaud your bravery for going first. Hey. Mike. Mike!

MIKE

What...oh I'm sorry. All this talk of sleep made me...

GRASSLEY

Sleepy I bet. Since you were so respectful to your classmate, you can go next.

MIKE

What do I do?

GRASSLEY

Tell us a story.

MIKE

What story?

GRASSLEY

Any story.

MIKE

I don't know any.

GRASSLEY

The princess and the pea. Do you know that one?

MIKE

Barely.

Princess and the Pea

GRASSLEY

Make it up as you go then Mike. And please, don't put us all to sleep.

MIKE

Okay

I want to dedicate this to Mary.

MARY

Why?

MIKE

Because I like you.

KATHERINE

Gross.

GRASSLEY

Let's stay on subject please.

MIKE

...so once upon a time there was a kingdom

NARRATOR

(taking over)

Without a princess. And this concerned the king and his ministers.

The king and his ministers stare at a line graph indicating there are no more female royalty.

PRIME MINISTER

We are facing a severe heiress deficit. We must immediately increase the number of young female royal individuals in the palace vicinity.

KING

You mean, we have to find a princess.

PRIME MINISTER

That's what I said.

ADVISOR

You did once have a princess your majesty.

KING

I did. But she has been lost since childhood.

PRIME MINISTER

Maybe we should try to find her and bring her back.

KING

But how?

They all think until Million Laughs Charlie interrupts them.

CHARLIE

I just flew in and boy are my arms tired!

Thank you! Thank you for that round of indifference. I will be here all week.

So last night I walked into this bar and there's a Rabbi and an Irishman sitting there-

KING

Please Million Laughs Charlie. We are trying to conduct official business here.

We could offer a reward for my princess's quick return.

PRIME MINISTER

A million Flobins.

CHARLIE

Is that before...or after taxes?

ADVISOR

Do you remember what she looked like?

KING

No.

CHARLIE

Great!...I mean, that's too bad.

KING

I will have to test the candidates. Luckily I know just the test.

ADVISOR

You know kingdoms are starting to drop the S.A.T. your majesty.

KING

I'm not talking about the S.A.T. I'm talking about a real test. Get me some mattresses

Charlie runs to his friend Frank's house. The king's assistants begin making a pile.

NARRATOR

Charlie decided to recruit his friend Frank for the task.

CHARLIE

Frank! Frank!

NARRATOR

Frank was a rather big man with a smallish brain. And before he could even say "once upon a time" Frank was dressed in a wig and on his way to meet the king.

FRANK

I don't want to be no princess Charlie. This lipstick itches.

CHARLIE

Shhhhh. OH YOO-HOO! Your majesty. I would like to introduce you to someone very special.

KING

Special indeed...she has more of a five o'clock shadow than I remember. If she passes the test it doesn't matter. I will love her all the same.

FRANK

You didn't say nothing about no test.

CHARLIE

Ahem!

FRANK

(doing a falsetto voice)

I am not the best at reading and 'rithmetic.

KING

No matter. Under this pile of mattresses there is a pea. If you are a real princess, you will be so refined, so sensitive, that even this pea can disturb your royal slumber.

FRANK

Whatever you say.

Frank hops on top of the mattresses and the King departs. Charlie leans against them.

CHARLIE

You awake?

FRANK

Yes. But I'm getting very sleepy...

CHARLIE

Count sheep. I think that's supposed to keep you awake.

FRANK

One sheep, two sheep, five sheep, twelve sheep...

They are both snoring.

The next morning the King and his assistants enter.

PRIME MINISTER

This individual lacks the necessary insomniac properties to be a member of the royal lineage.

KING

He means this ain't no princess.

ADVISOR

Get out of here you impostors!

Charlie and Frank soon find themselves rushed out of the palace with a swift kick.

NARRATOR

So their first attempt was a failure, but Charlie and Frank were undaunted.

FRANK

What did you say?

NARRATOR

They kept trying-

FRANK

You! The one talking to thin air. What did you say?

NARRATOR

Undaunted. It means you are unafraid.

FRANK

Oh. That's right. We're not afraid..

NARRATOR
May I continue?

FRANK
Please.

NARRATOR
So Frank and Charlie made many attempts at the King's fortune. They tried a red wig.

The two guys do this and are turned away.

A brown wig.

The two guys do this and get to the mattress.

Charlie fed Frank lots of coffee and told him plenty of scary stories to keep him awake, but somehow the two always fell asleep. And awoken by a very rude alarm clock.

*Again with the swift kick from the King's advisors.
As the two goofs head home, a beautiful maiden appears, sweeping her stoop.*

CHARLIE
Whoa Frank. Check it out. Who is your new neighbor?

FRANK
That's Ellen. She is really kind.

CHARLIE
Well I am going to find out.
Hello Madam. I'm the man of your dreams...I mean, I'm Charlie. My name is Charlie.

ELLEN
Hi Charlie. I'm Ellen.

CHARLIE
Good to meet you Ellen. Look I had a business deal fall through this afternoon. What do you say we grab lunch together?

ELLEN
Sorry Charlie. I would love to, but I'm so tired. I didn't get a wink of sleep last night. I think there was a pea under my mattress.

CHARLIE

Did you try reading some Shakespeare? That always works for me.
Wait! A pea under your mattress?

NARRATOR

And before you could say “up to no good” Charlie had Ellen at the palace doorstep.
Charlie could smell those Flobins. Oh the things he would buy:

As this commences, Ellen passes the King’s mattress test.

CHARLIE

A boat. I’m definitely buying a boat.

And world peace. I’ll buy that.

And a Wii Fit.

Wait, I don’t know if I’ll have enough. So I’m going to buy a boat and a Wii Fit. If there’s any *left over* I will buy world peace.

KING

(hugging her)

Oh, my darling daughter. You wandered off those many years ago. How I’ve missed you. Here’s a million Flobins minus thirty percent for taxes.

ELLEN

Oh dad.

NARRATOR

And they all lived happily ever after. Oops, not everyone. Charlie spent the rest of his days trying to sell the movie rights to the Ellen and the King’s story.

Lights shift back to the classroom.

GRASSLEY

Very nice Mike. I’m sure Mary is honored to have that story dedicated to her.

MARY

I am. Can I go next?

GRASSLEY

What? A volunteer? Be my guest.

MARY

I want to dedicate my story to Mike.

KATHERINE

Oh my.

MARY

It's called Cutie and the Beast.
There once lived a woman...

Cutie and the Beast

NARRATOR

(Overlapping)

There once lived a woman named Nora who was very bored.

GRASSLEY

Sounds like some people I know.

NARRATOR

She was so bored he did nothing all day but play hide and seek with herself.

NORA

One-two-three! Ready or not here I come!

Searches a little too hard.

Where on earth can I be?

NARRATOR

Not a very happy existence.

NARRATOR 2

But one day Nora found something sitting behind a tree.

NORA

Who are you?

CUTIE

I'm a baby who has been left here by my wicked stepmother.

NORA

Baby? How old are you?

CUTIE

Sixteen.

NARRATOR

Not the youngest baby in the woods, but Nora took pity on her and provided the girl with a warm home.

NARRATOR 2

After about a year of living together, the old woman turned to the girl and said.

NORA

Cutie-Lou

NARRATOR

She called her Cutie-Lou because she was indeed a cute girl.

NARRATOR 2

Cute. You know, the medieval version of a supermodel.

NORA

My life has been so interesting in this year since I found you, I will call this your birthday. To have a birthday you need a gift.

NARRATOR

So Nora headed off into the woods to find Cutie a birthday gift.

NARRATOR 2

An obvious place to look.

NARRATOR

Until she came upon a beautiful glade.

NARRATOR 2

When Nora bent down to pick up some flowers though, a terrible beast growled.

BEAST

You are picking my flowers!

NARRATOR

The beast was hairy and growly.

NARRATOR 2

Not unlike certain U.S. Senators.

BEAST

For this crime I will eat you.

NARRATOR

Again, not unlike certain U.S. Senators.

NORA

But please! I only picked one.

BEAST

So I'll eat you only once.

NORA

I'll give you a gift.

BEAST

What do you have?

NORA

A cute daughter.

NARRATOR

Not the best response possible.

NARRATOR 2

The beast thought about this.

BEAST.

I'm thinking about this.

Okay. I'll tell you what we can do.

The Beast whispers in Nora's ear for a bit.

NARRATOR

Soon Nora was back home.

NORA

Cutie! Do I have a surprise for you!

CUTIE

What is it?

NORA

I gave you to a beast.

CUTIE

Not my worst birthday present actually.

NORA

It's not as bad as it seems. You see, I think this beast is really a prince who is cursed and can break his spell with a kiss from a beauty.

NARRATOR

Or at least a cutie.

CUTIE

Hmm. If he really is a prince we can live in a castle. I can go to work at Fairy Talbots and we will send our kids to the best schools and he can drive the carriage-pool once a week.

NARRATOR 2

In any case, the girl eventually agreed and soon found herself in the glade, where the beast was anxiously waiting.

CUTIE

Well, let's just get this over with.

She kisses his cheek and nothing happens.

BEAST

Strange. I don't smell any better. How do I look?

CUTIE

Horrible. Maybe I kissed the wrong cheek.

She kisses the other cheek. Still nothing.

CUTIE

Maybe you have a different kind of spell. Like amnesia or something. Perhaps a swift blow to the head.

She cracks him upside the head.

CUTIE

Nothing.

BEAST

Except now I'm dizzy.

NARRATOR

Cutie decided that this Beast was going to need professional help.

NARRATOR 2

So Cutie took the Beast to the kingdom's wise woman

NARRATOR

She had an office downtown.

The Beast lays on a psychologist's couch. The Wise Woman has the look of a psychoanalyst.

WISE

Now, how long have you had this feeling that you are a bewitched beast?

BEAST

I guess it all started when I was a tiny monster of 5 years old...

NARRATOR

Three hours.

NARRATOR 2

And \$800 later, the wise woman appeared.

WISE

I wish to announce that he is cured!

CUTIE

You mean he is a handsome prince now?

WISE

No...but he thinks he is!

The Beast emerges and gives Cutie his best Fred-Astaire twirl.

CUTIE

We're going to need better help.

NARRATOR

So Cutie took the Beast to the local witch.

WITCH

I've never turned any princes into beasts honey. I'm more of the poisoned apple type. Did you see my work on Snow White?

CUTIE

Is there anything you can do?

WITCH

I can give him a gulp of my witch's brew. Though it might keep him up at night. It's caffeinated.

The beast takes a swig.

BEAST

That's espresso.

WITCH

It's witch's brew, Beastie. No arguing.

BEAST

No change?

CUTIE

No change.

WITCH

Maybe you are fine just the way you are.

NARRATOR

Wishful thinking.

NARRATOR 2

So the Beast and Cutie were very sad. They prepared to go their separate ways.

BEAST

I'm very sad. But thanks for all your trouble Cutie. See ya!

NARRATOR

And with that the Beast bent down to kiss Cutie's hand, and in a flash she was turned into a Cutie-beast.

NARRATOR 2

She was a beast all along. So as is usually the case with fairy tales, they lived happily ever after.

Lights back up on the classroom.

KATHERINE

I cannot believe you are playing this stupid game Mary.

MARY

It's not all that bad Katherine.

MIKE

Sweet story Mary.

MARY

Thanks Mike.

KATHERINE

What are you doing?

MARY
Making conversation

KATHERINE
Making an idiot of yourself. Sit down.

GRASSLEY
Katherine. That sounds like volunteering to my ears.

KATHERINE
Then you must be deaf.

GRASSLEY
I'm not. Get up there.

KATHERINE
(referring to Cheryl)
Why doesn't she have to go?

GRASSLEY
Do you know her name?

KATHERINE
No.

CHERYL
Cheryl. My name is Cheryl.

GRASSLEY
See how easy that is? Come on Katherine, be creative for a few minutes. There aren't any right answers.

KATHERINE
The only story I know is a kid story.

GRASSLEY
So tell it.

KATHERINE
But it's from this stupid book my little sister reads.

Click-Clack Moo

GRASSLEY
Tell it.

KATHERINE

No. I don't want to.

GRASSLEY

I don't want to put you in detention for a month either.

KATHERINE

Ugh. Fine. Here is the story to a stupid children's book named "Click-Clack Moo"

MIKE

(Laughing)

Click clack who?

KATHERINE

Moo!

MIKE

Made you Moo.

KATHERINE

Ugh. You are so immature.

KATHERINE

Farmer Brown has a problem

NARRATOR

(Overlapping)

Farmer Brown has a problem.

NARRATOR 2

His cows like to type

NARRATOR 2

All day long he hears:

The cows' typing make the "click-clack" sound. Then they moo. This repeats several times.

NARRATOR

At first he couldn't believe his ears.

BROWN

Could that be typing? Cows that type? That's impossible.

Click, clack.

COWS
MOO...

Click, clack

COWS
Moo...

A sheet of paper is left for Farmer Brown. He picks it up.

BROWN
“Dear Farmer Brown. The barn is very cold at night. We’d like some electric blankets.
Sincerely, The Cows.

NARRATOR 2
It was bad enough the cows found the old typewriters in the barn.

NARRATOR 3
Now they wanted electric blankets!

BROWN
No way. No electric blankets.

COW 1
So the cows went on strike.

She slides a sheet of paper on the ground.

FARMER BROWN
“Sorry. We’re closed. No milk today.” No milk today!

NARRATOR
And in the background, Farmer Brown heard.

Click-clack.

COWS
Moo...

Click-clack.

COWS
Moo...

Click-clack.

COWS

Moo...

NARRATOR 2

And the next day Farmer Brown found another note.

FARMER BROWN

“Dear Farmer Brown, The hens are cold too. They’d like electric blankets. Sincerely, The Cows”

NARRATOR 3

And a new note under the barn door:

FARMER BROWN

“CLOSED. No milk. No eggs.” No eggs!

Click-clack.

COWS

Moo...

Click-clack.

COWS

Moo...

Click-clack.

COWS

Moo...

BROWN

Cows that type. Hens on strike! Whoever heard of such a thing? How can I run a farm with no milk and no eggs!

NARRATOR 3

Farmer Brown got out his own typewriter.

BROWN

Dear Cows and Hens: There will be no electric blankets. You are cows and hens. I demand milk and eggs. Sincerely, Farmer Brown.

NARRATOR

Duck was a neutral party, so he brought the ultimatum to the cows.

NARRATOR 2

The cows held an emergency meeting. All the animals gathered around the barn to snoop, but none of them could understand Moo.

NARRATOR 3

The official language of cows.

NARRATOR

All night long Farmer Brown waited for an answer.

NARRATOR 2

Duck knocked on the door early the next morning. He handed Farmer Brown a note.

BROWN

“Dear Farmer Brown, We will exchange our typewriter for electric blankets. Leave them outside the barn door and we will send Duck over with the typewriter. Sincerely, The Cows”

NARRATOR 3

Farmer Brown decided this was a good deal.

NARRATOR

He left the blankets next to the barn door and waited for Duck to come with the typewriter.

NARRATOR 2

The next morning he received a note.

BROWN

“Dear Farmer Brown, The pond is quite boring. We’d like a diving board. Sincerely, The Ducks”

Click-clack.

DUCKS

Quack.

Click-clack.

DUCKS

Quack.

Click-clack.

DUCKS

Quack.

Lights up again on the detention room.

KATHERINE

That's it.

MARY

Nice job Katherine.

GRASSLEY

Very well told.

KATHERINE

Really?

GRASSLEY

You all have a skill at storytelling. You just have to use it.

MIKE

That's nice but do you have any snacks Mrs. Grassley? I'm starving.

GRASSLEY

No, and we have a lot of time left together. Why don't you tell us a story about being hungry?

MIKE

From my own life?

GRASSLEY

Or an imagined one. It will make the time pass.

Thom Tum

MARY

Do it Mike.

MIKE

Okay.

Many years ago in a humble...

NARRATOR

(Overlapping)

Many years ago in a humble but dirty cottage deep in the forest, their live a dirty but humble mudmaker.

NARRATOR 2

She labored all day making mud, but was very poor because then, as now, the mud market was rather weak.

NARRATOR 3

And everyday when the mudmaker came home, her husband would not have any dinner prepared because:

HUSBAND

I'm unhappy.

NARRATOR

Now being a mudmaker is bad enough, but being a mudmaker with an unhappy husband is too much to bear.

NARRATOR 2

So early the next morning, our mudmaker went to a house made of cheese where the good fairy lived.

FAIRY

For crying out loud! What do you want? If you're here selling fairy scout cookies I'll-

MUD

Are you the good fairy?

FAIRY

Of course I'm the good fairy. What kind of a silly question is that?

MUD

You see my husband is unhappy.

FAIRY

Big deal.

MUD

If we could have a child to keep him company...

FAIRY

All right, all right. I get the picture. With a tap of my wand, I grant your wish.

NARRATOR 3

So the good fairy tapped the mudmaker on the head with her wand.

NARRATOR 2

Fortunately for her, the fairy didn't get a good windup, so she suffered only a mild concussion.

NARRATOR

The mudmaker stumbled home as fast as she could.

HUSBAND

Oh darling. You'll never guess what happened. I found a baby boy on our doorstep!

MUD

Hooray! It worked. Where is he!

HUSBAND

I put him in his thimble.

NARRATOR 2

You heard right, the baby was small enough to sleep in a thimble.

NARRATOR 3

He couldn't even get into little league.

NARRATOR

He had to play in Really Little League. He was that small.

NARRATOR 2

And ten years later, the boy had not grown an inch. So the mudmaker went back to the good fairy.

MUD

Is there anything we can do to make this boy grow that is within FDA regulations?

FAIRY

Well don't feed him peanuts. That's for sure. Take this magic chickpea and put it under his bed-or in this case, under his thimble. Now leave me alone.

NARRATOR 3

The mudmaker followed the fairy's instructions and sure enough, her son shot up. And let me tell you, that boy's stomach was nothing to sneeze at.

MUD

We shall call him Thom Tum.

NARRATOR

The boy lived up to his name. He ate and ate and ate.

NARRATOR 2

He joined the Clean Plate Club

NARRATOR 3

He even joined the lesser-known Clean Table Club.

NARRATOR

And when he had eaten all there was in the woods, he set off through the woods, gobbling everything in his path.

MUD

Good fairy, what happened to your house?

FAIRY

Some kid ate it, then ran down the road yelling ‘food, food!’

MUD

That’s actually what I want to ask you about.

FAIRY

Well if I ever find out who that brat’s mother is, I’m turning her into a toad!

MUD

Um...a toad?

FAIRY

Now what was it you wanted to ask me?

MUD

Umm...Nice day isn’t it?

FAIRY

No.

MUD

See ya!

NARRATOR

Now it so happened that the queen was celebrating her birthday this day and among the many fine presents she received was a fat duck.

QUEEN

This better be an enchanted duck. If not, it’s a pretty lame gift.

NARRATOR 2

It was indeed an enchanted duck. It laid eggs by the dozens. By the hundreds. By the thousands.

NARRATOR 3

So many eggs that the castle was overflowing with them.

NARRATOR

Hearing this, the mudmaker brought the child to the queen.

QUEEN

You say your boy Thom Tum will get rid of the eggs?

MUD

Yes, your highness.

NARRATOR 2

And with that, the mudmaker let her son loose.

NARRATOR 3

And that boy ate everything. I mean everything.

NARRATOR

Even the tables and chairs.

NARRATOR 2

Soon the situation got bad and the queen needed the mudmaker to take Thom back.

QUEEN

You have to take him back.

MUD

Oh no. I can't do that.

QUEEN

Humor me. I'm the queen.

MUD

Sorry.

QUEEN

Fine. Take him back and I'll give you a kingdom of your own.

NARRATOR

The mudmaker didn't need to consult her financial planner on that one.

MUD

That's a deal!

NARRATOR 2

So the mudmakers moved to a far off land.

NARRATOR 3

The mudmaker's husband solved Thom's eating disorder by giving him mud pies.

NARRATOR

Which will kill anybody's appetite.

NARRATOR 2

But just to be sure, no food was allowed in the kingdom. The people were always famished and the tiny country was called...

ALL NARRATORS

Hungary.

NARRATOR

And they all lived happily, if thinly, ever after.

Lights up on the classroom.

GRASSLEY

We're getting better at this. Samantha do you want to try again?

SAMANTHA

No.

GRASSLEY

Why not?

SAMANTHA

Because I just got gum stuck to my fingers.

MIKE

I didn't put that there. I swear.

SAMANTHA

Gross.

GRASSLEY

Use that in your story.

SAMANTHA

Are you serious?

GRASSLEY

Very. All we have to go on is our own experience. Make light of it.

SAMANTHA

No.

GRASSLEY

Come on. You have to be able to laugh at yourself.

The Golden Goose

SAMANTHA

There once was a man who had three daughters.

NARRATOR

The first daughter was very beautiful and could play the fiddle with her feet.

NARRATOR 2

The second was very strong and could recite poetry:

SECOND

Out of the blue
A cockatoo flew
Boo boo bee doo.

NARRATOR 3

Simply brilliant.

NARRATOR

But the third daughter was not a bit like her sisters. She was a dullard and very lazy.

NARRATOR 2

If it was sunny, she would stand inside all day humming the national anthem.

NARRATOR 3

And if it was raining, she would stand outside and get her clothes all wet.

NARRATOR

And one day the old man decided it was time for his daughters to go out in the world and make their fortunes.

FATHER

I'm giving you each some sour cheese, stale bread and a cookie. Farewell daughters. Seek your fortune in the wide, wide world and don't forget to thank your father. Oh, and always pay your taxes.

NARRATOR

The first daughter traveled until she decided to pause by a shady tree for a midday meal.

She was about to eat when...

OLD WOMAN

I am very hungry young lady. Would you share your meal with me?

FIRST

No. I need this food to keep up my strength so I can play the fiddle with my feet.

NARRATOR 2

Because that's normal. A short time later the second daughter paused by the tree.

OLD WOMAN

Pardon me young lady but-

SECOND

No! I need this food so I can recite oh so clever verse.

OLD WOMAN

How did you know I was going to ask for food?

SECOND

We do have speakers in the green room you know.

OLD WOMAN

Will no one give me a bite to eat?

NARRATOR 3

Just then the third daughter came along.

OLD WOMAN

Pardon me young lady, but I am very hungry

THIRD

You are? Good! Then you eat this.

OLD WOMAN

You mean, you'll let me have your sour cheese, stale bread and cookie?

THIRD

Sure. I may be dull, but I'm not desperate enough to eat that garbage.

OLD WOMAN

Oh you kind child. I want to do something nice for you. I know just the thing! Look behind that tree when I am gone and you will find a big surprise.

The old woman leaves.

THIRD

It's not a baby is it?

Scans behind tree and pulls out a golden goose.

THIRD

A golden goose! This is the first time I ever got the bird and liked it! I'm rich!

She ties a string around the goose and drags it along. A merchant soon arrives.

MERCHANT

I see you have a golden goose there young lady. I would like to buy one of its golden feathers. How about I give you a nickel?

THIRD

First of all, I only take Euros, Visa, Check or Mastercard. And second, a nickel? Do I look stupid?

MERCHANT

Yes.

THIRD

A golden feather is worth at least four cents.

MERCHANT

Okay fine. Here's your four stinkin' cents.

Merchant reaches to pluck a feather but his/her hand gets stuck.

MERCHANT

Hey. What's going on here?

THIRD

Well, this is a fairy tale. Strange things happen all the time.

NARRATOR

So they carried on, the gal in front, the goose behind and the merchant behind the goose. They hadn't gone far before they met a robber.

ROBBER

Hand over that goose or I shall whack you with this...with this...aww man, did I forget my sword *again*?

Robber reaches for the merchant but also gets stuck.

NARRATOR 2

The daughter, completely unfazed by this, continued into the village, whereby the sheriff found his arch nemesis.

SHERIFF

So I've finally caught up with you Fingers. No sword this time eh? You're under arrest. Aww man, did I forget my handcuffs *again*?

Sheriff reaches for the robber but also gets stuck.

NARRATOR 3

And so it went until the train of fools passed by the palace. The king had a son who never laughed and the sight of these people stuck together brought out a healthy...

PRINCE

Haw, haw, haw...

NARRATOR 2

Making a sound that belonged more to a barnyard animal than a human.

KING

You made my son laugh. Therefore you shall marry him.

THIRD

Now that's a good idea. But won't the honeymoon suite be a bit crowded?

KING

True. Where's the wise woman? Wise woman!

Wise woman appears.

WISE

Now, now, now. What do we have here? A classic case of stuckidopitus. I can make them all let go in just seventeen words: Everybody who doesn't want to spend the rest of their lives in the dungeon...raise your hands!

Each of them does. Third raises the goose's wing.

NARRATOR

So the third daughter and the prince were married.

NARRATOR 2

But this was NOT a happy ending you see. The prince never laughed again.

NARRATOR 3

So if you ever meet a funny old lady in the woods, don't give her your sour cheese, stale bread, and cookie.

NARRATOR

Or else your goose will be cooked.

Lights up in the classroom.

GRASSLEY

Very funny.

SAMANTHA

Thanks.

GRASSLEY

Cheryl? Would you like to join us yet?

KATHERINE

Yeah. Why hasn't Cheryl had to go yet?

GRASSLEY

Do you have a good one this week Cheryl?

KATHERINE

What?

MARY

This week?

CHERYL

I do. It's another story about an outcast. I hope that's alright.

GRASSLEY

Fine by me.

Son of Rumpelstiltskin

CHERYL

This group likes whacked fairy tales so I'll try my best to make this one funny.

MIKE

This group?

CHERYL

Once, not so long ago. Maybe last Tuesday...

NARRATOR

(overlapping)

Last Tuesday, there lived a funny little man in a green suit. He lived in a forest. And he had a son- also a funny little man in a green suit.

SKIN

How come we have to live out in the woods dad?

DAD

Because we're not ordinary folks, boy. We're magic.

SKIN

Magic?

DAD

Yup. You know how sometimes folks get into trouble and then they meet a funny little man who makes a strikingly lopsided deal to help 'em out? And he does a little magic and they write a fairy tale about it. We're the funny little men.

SKIN

Well I think I want to experience that sensation Dad. I want to go out into the world.

DAD

I was wondering when you were going to say such a thing. Usually kids want to leave the house before they are thirty-five.

SKIN

Not always. Listen, if I do real good. Will they write a fairy tale about me?

DAD

Without a doubt.

NARRATOR

In the village nearby, there lived a miller who was very poor. And this miller had a daughter who had a terrible habit of tripping people.

NARRATOR 2

One day the king was out for a stroll and you guessed it...

Lily trips the King and laughs. The King laughs too. The Miller doesn't get it.

MILLER

Before you freak out and behead us I just want to let you know that this girl here

can...she can...spin gold out of straw.

LILY
No I can't.

MILLER
She can.

KING
Spin gold out of straw? Bring this girl to my castle and if she can do as you say, I will take her for my bride. Good day.

NARRATOR
So the king marched off to do royal things such as sit on his throne and behead people.

NARRATOR 2
And the next morning, the king placed Lily in a dark room with a stack of straw.

KING
Now spin that straw into gold-or else.

LILY
Or else what?

KING
Or else I lose a \$50 bet with the court jester.

The king exits.

LILY
I don't want him to lose his bet.

Rumplestiltskin suddenly appears.

SKIN
I have heard about your plight and I am here to help.

LILY
Who are you?

SKIN
I'm a funny little man in a green suit. Who does it look like I am?

LILY
You could say that again.

SKIN

I'm a funny little man in a-

LILY

Nevermind. What do you want?

SKIN

I will turn that straw into gold for you if you give me your first child after you become queen.

LILY

My first child? Why that?

SKIN

Who knows? Makes the plot better.

LILY

Well I don't want to interfere with the plot.

NARRATOR

You certainly don't.

LILY

That's what I just said. I could use the sleep. You have a deal little green man.

NARRATOR 2

True to his word, the little man turned that straw into gold and the King married Lily the Miller's daughter.

NARRATOR

Two years later, a beautiful child was born and the little man appeared again.

SKIN

Hi! Long time no see darling. I came for the kid.

LILY

But you can't have my child. What will you do with him?

SKIN

Dress him in a green suit and make a funny little man out of him. What else?

LILY

He doesn't even look good in green. I refuse to let you have him.

SKIN

I have absolutely no idea what to do in this situation. Excuse me while I consult my generic fairytale writer's handbook.

He does.

SKIN

I tell you what. I'll make a deal. If you can discover what my name is in two days, you can keep the child.

LILY

Are you Henry? Clyde? Newton? Ming Choi? Running Mouse? Cherry Nose? Charlie Brown

SKIN

(Laughing)

You failed!

LILY

That was nowhere near two days worth of guesses.

NARRATOR 2

After two days of guessing.

LILY

Hey!

SKIN

Well...the baby please.

LILY

What is your name then?

NARRATOR

Just then he realized...

SKIN

It's uh...it's...wait here I'll be right back.

NARRATOR 2

So the little man ran about the village. He talked to garbage collectors

SKIN

Do you know me?

GARBAGE

I can't say I do-and with any luck I never will.

NARRATOR

He tried the village wise woman.

WISE

No, I don't know your name. But I know how you can find out. Go home and sooner or later somebody will send you a letter. Then all you have to do is see what name is on the envelope.

SKIN

That has got to be the stupidest idea I've ever heard.

NARRATOR 2

But the little man did it anyways because that's called plot development.

NARRATOR

He waited...

NARRATOR 2

And waited.

NARRATOR

Until he eventually received a letter from the postman.

SKIN

Rumplestiltskin. Rumplestiltskin! What kind of a name is that? Sounds like a skin rash. I can't go back to the queen and tell her my name is Rumplestiltskin. I'd be the laughingstock of the entire kingdom.

NARRATOR

And so the queen and her child lived happily ever after. She never saw the little green man again.

NARRATOR 2

Nobody saw him again, because he was so ashamed he got out of the magic business and changed his name to Henry Paulson.

NARRATOR

And we all know there's never been a fairy tale about Henry Paulson.

NARRATOR 2

Until now.

Lights up again on the classroom.

GRASSLEY

Fantastic job once again Cheryl.

MIKE

Hold on a minute. Do you mean to tell me that Cheryl comes here often?

GRASSLEY

Cheryl?

CHERYL

I come once a week. Every week the..uh...clientele is different.

KATHERINE

Why?

CHERYL

I like hearing the stories. It helps me get to know people.

KATHERINE

But you don't know us.

CHERYL

I do now. At least a little bit.

MARY

Wow. That's kind of cool. But how is "Detention" going to look on a college application?

CHERYL

I'll call it story time.

SAMANTHA

But you never talk to any of us.

CHERYL

Hopefully I will now. And hopefully you will too.

GRASSLEY

Katherine, what are you doing?

Texting again.

KATHERINE

I've got to tell Christina about this.

GRASSLEY

Where did you get that phone?

KATHERINE

Oh it's my emergency back-up.

GRASSLEY

This isn't an emergency.

KATHERINE

Yes it is. I've gone thirty minutes without human contact-

Realizes what she's said.

KATHERINE

I mean...

GRASSLEY

Why don't you go again?

KATHERINE

I don't have any original ideas.

Little Red Jogging Hood

GRASSLEY

Yes you do. You just have to take a little leap. That's all. We haven't heard from Little Red Riding Hood.

KATHERINE

No.

GRASSLEY

See you next week then.

KATHERINE

Okay! I'll do it. Geez.

GRASSLEY

Just make the story yours somehow.

KATHERINE

Great advice.

GRASSLEY

Don't be cross dear.

KATHERINE

Okay....so

NARRATOR

There once was a girl who ate a lot.

MOTHER

Little, you eat too much. Too many muffins, too many hot pockets and too many Lucky Charms. I'm worried someday you will be fat.

NARRATOR 2

Meanwhile, there was a wolf who also ate a lot.

MOTHER WOLF

Wolfie, I'm worried about you. You eat too much. Too many squirrels, too many blueberries and too much Magic Burger Kingdom.

MOTHER AND MOTHER WOLF

I'm putting you on a diet.

WOLF AND LITTLE

Come on!

MOTHER

And I hired a trainer to help you. Meet Lars.

LARS

Hello Little. I am here to pump you up. Drop and give me fifty.

LITTLE

Fifty what? Cookies?

LARS

This is going to take work. But I am determined to terminate the excess.

MOTHER

He's going to follow you twenty four hours a day and make sure you stay fit and slim.

LARS

We must test her.

MOTHER

That's right. We must test you. I have a basket of fresh, piping hot, sweet, soft muffins for you to deliver straight to Grandma. Lars will make sure your heart rate stays high enough to burn come calories.

LARS

(Handing her the hood)

Wear this. It will keep your body heat up and help you lose water weight.

LITTLE

But water is good for you!

MOTHER WOLF

We're going for a jog my boy. You and I. And there will be no snacking. We're jogging through the enchanted wood.

LARS

We're going through the enchanted wood.

LITTLE

Sounds great.

NARRATOR 2

And so like contestants on the Biggest Loser, our heroes Little and Wolfie hit the pavement er...unpaved forest trail.

NARRATOR

Tempted by her mother's muffins, Little tried to distract Lars.

LITTLE

Oh my, look at that obese goblin over there. It really needs a workout. See it, the green one?

LARS

I'm colorblind. Nice try.

NARRATOR 2

And the wolf tried to slow his mother down.

WOLFIE

I think I have a furball...stuck in my throat...

MOTHER WOLF

Nice try. Hack it up and keep on jogging. One-two. One-two. Your pace is so slow. I don't understand how you hunt a darned thing.

NARRATOR

When the two health challenged pairs finally met in a magical glade.

WOLFIE

(whispering)

Look mom.

MOTHER WOLF

Ten year old girl. Looks like 237 fat calories, only 6 grams of protein and about 33 grams of carbs.

WOLFIE

At least there's no trans fats.

MOTHER WOLF

Keep running.

LARS

To be tough you have to work at it. Look at me. I'm the toughest guy there is and I didn't get this way by being wimpy. I worked at being un-wimpy.

LITTLE

Oh my gosh, look! Wolf!

LARS

Mommy!

Lars runs offstage after his squeal.

WOLFIE

Look mom. You can pace yourself off of him. I'll catch up later.

MOTHER WOLF

Sounds good to me. Keep pacing. I'll be right back.

She runs after Lars.

LITTLE

Intervention?

WOLFIE

Jennie Craig-style.

LITTLE

I'm just a growing girl.

WOLFIE

And I'm just a growing carnivore.

BOTH

I need calories.

LITTLE

You're not going to eat me are you?

WOLFIE

I'm thinking about it.

LITTLE

Hey! I have a better idea. Let's both eat these muffins.

WOLFIE

How is that a better idea?

LITTLE

Because I live.

WOLFIE

Sounds good to me.

NARRATOR

Little was a better negotiator than thinker, for as soon as she and the wolf were done with their muffins, a whole new set of problems arose.

WOLFIE

mmmmm...I'm so full.

LITTLE

I'm stuffed worse than a Thanksgiving turkey.

WOLFIE

That was great.

LITTLE

Wonderful.

WOLFIE

My belly is so big right now.

LITTLE

So is mine.

WOLFIE

It's so great you just happened to have those muffins in hand.

LITTLE

Muffins! Oh no! My mother will kill me for eating those muffins. That was my big test. I needed to get those muffins to grandmother's house.

Lars screaming in the distance.

And here comes Lars. He looks like a tattle-tale.

WOLFIE

That's no good because this is a fairy tale.

Hey I know! Pretend you ate me. You have the huge belly right now to prove it.

LARS

AHHHHH!

WOLFIE

Hurry! Hide!

LITTLE

Lars! I ate that big bad wolf's kid.

LARS

Nice work. I'm going to be this wolf's dinner! Tell your mother thanks for the training job, but I've got a bigger one right now. Running for my life!

Lars exits.

LITTLE

And here comes your mom.

WOLFIE

Now hide! I'll do the same thing.

MOTHER WOLF

Yoo-hooo! That man has got to be the worst jogging partner imaginable. He does nothing but spring and cry like a baby without a rattle. Where's the little girl?

WOLFIE just points to his belly.

MOTHER WOLF
You didn't.

WOLFIE
I did.

MOTHER WOLF
Well this just sets our training back about three weeks!

WOLFIE
This was our first day.

MOTHER WOLF
Math was never my strong suit.

WOLFIE
So no more running today?

MOTHER WOLF
No more.

As they exit, Little comes out from hiding. Her and the wolf share a wink.

NARRATOR
And so Little and Wolfie lived happily ever after-

NARRATOR 2
No that's technically incorrect. They lived happy, *full* lives.

NARRATOR
Oh gosh. I quit.

Lights up on the classroom.

GRASSLEY
Very good Katherine.

MARY
Nice job.

MIKE
Ditto.

KATHERINE

You really mean it?

SAMANTHA
Absolutely.

GRASSLEY
(Holding out the basket)
Here are your cellphones. Time's up.

MIKE
Wait. Can we do one as a group?

GRASSLEY
Certainly.

The Water of Life

MARY
So we just add our ideas as it goes along?

MIKE
Yeah. Let's see what happens.

CHERYL
What should we call the story.

MIKE
I don't know. Something large.

MARY
The Water of Life.

KATHERINE
Sounds good to me. There once was a princess.

MARY
Three princesses.

NARRATOR
The first, named Daisy, had no trouble being smelled.

NARRATOR 2
The second, named Glitzy, had no trouble being seen.

NARRATOR
And the third, named Alice, had no trouble being named.

NARRATOR 2

Because it's a boring name.

NARRATOR

No because A is at the beginning of the alphabet.

NARRATOR 2

And the girls had a father who was very ill.

KING

I thought it was just a headcold.

NARRATOR

Very ill.

KING

(coughs)

DAISY

Oh father how will you survive this deadly headcold?

KING

Please step back. I can't breathe.

DAISY

Oh no. Seasonal allergies too?

KING

Your perfume.

DAISY

Drat.

GLITZY

Oh father, how will you survive this deadly headcold?

KING

Please step back. I can't see.

GLITZY

Oh dear. Myopia to boot!

KING

No. Your bracelets reflect the light too much.

ALICE
Oh father, how will you survive this deadly headcold?

KING
Remind me, who you are again?

ALICE
Alice. Your youngest daughter.

KING
That's right.

ALICE
Oh he can't remember my name. We have to get him to a doctor.

DAISY
I have a better idea. Let's talk to the village wise man.

GLITZY
Great idea.

ALICE
That's a terrible idea.

DAISY
Come on let's go!

NARRATOR
And so the princesses set off to find the village wise man, who really only scored a 96 on an online I.Q. test.

NARRATOR 2
Which *still* makes him smarter than Simon Cowell.

WISE
Ugh, something smells like rotten flowers mixed with sewage and rotting spaghetti-

GLITZY
Oh Wisie. Where are you?

WISE
I'm right here.

DAISY
Come quick. The king needs your help. He is terribly ill.

ALICE
With a headcold.

WISE
I know just what you need. A Snuggie. The blanket with sleeves! Only \$19.95 and if you order today you get a free book light! Imagine all that healing the King can do while he reads his favorite novels. Buy now!

GLITZY
Hey. He's right. Blankets are okay.

DAISY
But they slip and slide.

GLITZY
Plus your hands are trapped inside.

DAISY
We'll take two.

GLITZY
And we'll obviously need them in Royal Blue.

ALICE
Are you nuts? A blanket with sleeves? This is the last thing the King, or you, or anybody for that matter needs in the middle of a recession!

WISE
What's your name again?

ALICE
Alice.

WISE
Alice. You are right. What your father really needs is the water of life.

GLITZY
Is that some kind of moisturizer?

WISE
No it's water from an enchanted pond, which is guarded by a magical frog who possesses fantastic powers to create supernatural-

DAISY
We get the point.

GLITZY

Can you just send those Snuggies to 210 Royalty Way?

WISE

Absolutely. And good luck.

NARRATOR

So \$19.95 poorer and a whole lot more gullible, the princesses set off for the magical pond, which was really more like an unenchanted bog, but let's not split hairs.

FROG

Ugh, something smells like rotten flowers mixed with bird s- hello girls!

DAISY

Yoo-hoo froggie.

FROG

Who do we have here? Stinky, Flashy, and Boring?

DAISY

No. Daisy. Glitzy and Alice.

GLITZY

This place is disgusting.

FROG

Repulsive. Just the way I like it. What can I do for you?

ALICE

We need the water of life.

FROG

Who are you again?

ALICE

I'm Alice!

FROG

Well, I'm charged with guarding this enchanted pond.

ALICE

It's more like a haunted puddle.

FROG

Whatever. It's under my guard. That goes for everything in it.

DAISY

What do we have to do to get the cold remedy?

FROG

Kiss me.

GLITZY

I'm sorry, I don't do that out in the woods. I am a lady.

ALICE

He said *kiss* me.

GLITZY

Oh...

DAISY

I'm not doing that.

GLITZY

Yeah. Dad can deal with Sudafed and a box of Kleenex.

ALICE

Fine. I'll kiss you.

She does, on the cheek of course. Nothing happens.

FROG

Drat.

ALICE

Well I wasn't going to kiss you on the lips.

FROG

Not that. It's just...I hoped something would happen.

DAISY

You might turn into a prince?

FROG

No. Eww. I just wanted a big fly to zip right in front of my tongue at that moment.

ALICE

So I can have some of the water of life?

FROG

That's what the mosquitoes call it.

ALICE

Excellent.

NARRATOR

And so the girls headed back to the palace.

NARRATOR 2

And when they reached the king's chamber, he was already feeling better.

KING

Ugh something smells like dead flowers and fish guts-

DAISY

Hello father. It's me Daisy.

GLITZY

And me, Glitzy.

DAISY

We found the remedy for what ails you?

KING

A tuna sandwich?

ALICE

No, the water of life. Here you go father.

He drinks. Feels better.

KING

Oh thank you Alice. Thank you my dear.

ALICE

You remember my name!

KING

I must be feeling better my sweet Alice.

DAISY

We helped!

GLITZY

And we ordered Snuggies!

KING

Who are you again?

NARRATOR

And so they all lived happily ever after.

NARRATOR 2

At least until their Snuggies got over laundered and started to look a dirty sea-greenish kind of color.

Lights up on the classroom. The kids pick up their devices.

GRASSLEY

Look at that. You all can agree on something. Now take your electronics and get out of here. I have to go check my e-mail.

MIKE

Funny Mrs. Grassley.

SAMANTHA

Cheryl, how is it coming every week?

CHERYL

It's a fun way to get to know people.

MARY

I think I'll give it a shot.

MIKE

Me too.

MARY

How about you Katherine?

KATHERINE

I don't know if I'm going to willingly give up my phone for an hour ever again, but if I happen to get caught with it in class, well...so be it.

GRASSLEY

That's about as good an answer as I'm going to get. See you later.

KATHERINE

Ummm...thanks Mrs. Grassley.

GRASSLEY

No problem.

SAMANTHA

Cheryl, are you doing anything fun this afternoon?

CHERYL

Working on a writing project for English.

SAMANTHA

The “creative” Moby Dick paper?

CHERYL

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

Want to work on it together?

CHERYL

Sure.

MARY

(To Mike)

My answer is yes.

MIKE

You have a date.

MARY

No I don't. I'd like to go with you.

MIKE

Sweeeeeet!

MARY

As friends.

MIKE

Good. A guy's gotta have goals.

GRASSLEY

See you all later.

(To audience)

Four social islands turned friends in one hour. Not bad for a witch.

Lights out.
The end.