

Grimms' fairy tales had psychological bases

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WHY DO CHILDREN and adults continue to read the Grimms' stories? Why are they continually adapted and transformed by writers, directors, cartoonists and even advertisers? Why, in other words, are we perennially under their spell?

To answer these questions, it is necessary to understand what the tales mean," Hasse said. "Interpretations of the Grimms' stories are varied and represent a topic of great debate.

Some readers see them merely as a reflection of the social, political and economic realities of the Middle Ages. Others believe the tales hold deeper, more personal, psychological implications.

Perhaps the best known psychoanalytical critic of Grimms' stories is Bruno Bettelheim, Hasse said.

In his book, "Uses of Enchantment," subtitled, "The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales," Bettelheim depicts fairy tales as psychological dramas in which the characters work out their problems and conflicts," Hasse said. These dramas can help children work through their conflicts and problems of growing up, he said.

FOR EXAMPLE, in "Hansel and Gretel," Bettelheim says young readers subconsciously see their own fear of parent separation and a reluctance to go out on their own. "He suggests that the tale depicts children coming to grips with the fear of parent separation

and coming to terms with maturation by demonstrating responsibility in returning to care for their father."

Bettelheim sees Little Red, in the "Little Red Riding Hood" tale, as passing into maturity from a young adolescent by coming to understand her sexuality, which is represented by the wolf, Hasse said.

That interpretation is debated by literary scholars in the conservative camp and by critics who don't see the tales as psycho dramas, but as reflections of social and political realities, he said.

The Grimm brothers introduced the hunter to the Little Red tale and many critics view their version as sexist, Hasse said.

"In their version, some critics say

Little Red is depicted as an irresponsible girl, who is led astray by her sexuality and is punished by her encounter with the wolf. "Because the wolf outwits her, Little Red is viewed as foolish and has to be rescued by a man, the hunter.

"WITH THE rise of the women's movement, modern writers of fairy tales have tried to subvert the negative stereotype of women by reviving the fantasy so that Little Red uses her intelligence to outwit the wolf.

"In these more modern versions, she learns that she must control her sexuality, which is viewed as a positive, useful attribute to be desired," Hasse said.

"So we see that fairy tales have come the full cycle in updating social values that existed in the Middle Ages to adhere more to those that are prevalent today.

When Hasse showed his 8-year-old daughter, Emily, both an early and modern version of the tale, she said she liked the modern version best because Little Red was smarter.

"I think it's important to study fairy

tales to try to learn what they're doing with our children," Hasse said. "I'm not suggesting children shouldn't read Grimms' and other fairy tales, but I think it's important to gain some idea what kinds of messages the children may be picking up from these stories.

To Hasse, each tale should be viewed individually. "You can't make too many interpretive generalizations. Fairy tales are like the Bible in that they can be interpreted as having various meanings."

But every fairy tale raises questions.

Friends Ball is planned

The Friends Ball which honors benefactors of Providence Hospital in Southfield, will be April 20 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

Co-chairs of the black tie dinner dance are Beverly McCamman and Pia Park, both of West Bloomfield. Music will be provided by the Harry Telchert Strings and the Austin-More orchestra.

Awards to five staff physicians who, between them, have accumulated 139 years of service will be presented by Sister Xavier Baillette, president of Providence Hospital. They are Norman E. Clark Jr., the late William J. Flaherty and Robert K. Wise, all of Birmingham, and Quintin P. Hamilton and James J. Smiggen, both of Lathrup Village.

The ball is co-sponsored by the Providence Hospital Foundation and the Providence Hospital Medical Staff Research Foundation. Funds raised by both foundations help to support the hospital's programs.

Donations are \$300 per couple or \$125 for a table of 10. For more information, call the foundation office at 552-9001.

Nursing conference at Madonna

Madeline M. Leininger, professor of nursing and anthropology at Wayne State University, will be the featured presenter at a Transcultural Nursing Research Conference to be held at Madonna College Tuesday, April 30.

Founder and leader of transcultural nursing, Leininger was the first professional nurse to complete a doctoral degree in cultural and social anthropology.

Co-sponsored by the Michigan Transcultural Nursing Society and Madonna's newly formed Nursing Honor Society, the conference will include speakers as Patricia Smith, instructor, Wayne State University; Mary P. Bailey, assistant professor, University of Michigan; Rhonda Panfili, clinical nurse specialist, Harper-Grace Hospital; Janet Rosenbaum, associate professor and director, University of Windsor; Linda Lunsy, Joy Monsma, pediatric clinical nurse specialist; and

Peggy Shinkel, assistant professor, Madonna College.

Subjects to be addressed are: developments in the field of transcultural nursing, qualitative research methodology, children of battered women, black adolescent motherhood, care of urban elder Appalachians, and aging in American culture. A panel discussion will focus on educational strategies to use in practice and education.

The conference will be held 1-5 p.m.

In Kresge Hall on the Madonna Campus. An informal reception will follow. Cost of the conference is a donation of \$3 for nurses and \$1 for students.

For information or registration, call 591-5155. Madonna College is located at the intersection of I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia. It offers a bachelor's degree in nursing and a graduate program leading to a master of science in administration with an emphasis in nursing administration.

Mystery author comes to town

William X. Kienzle, author of "The Rosary Murders" and other mysteries, will visit the Little Professor Book Center, 37115 Grand River, Farmington, 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday. He'll be signing copies of his new mystery, "Sudden Death."

The good old days

When President Washington decided to take a three-month tour of the South he simply climbed aboard his coach and took off — without Secret Service men or press of any kind. Because of a mixup of mails and the un-mapped roads, the government did not know for nearly two months exactly where the president was.

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