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Writing Prompt: Fairy Tale 1

Instructions:

Below you'll find a sentence with which to start your fairy tale, a sentence to announce its middle, and a sentence to help you find an ending. Let your imagination flow. Find a way to fill in the space from the beginning sentence to the middle sentence to the final sentence (each of these sentences is lifted from three different French Folktales). Write a little, or write a lot: fairy tales don't have to be long to resonate.

1. **Beginning:** "There was once a girl so sweet and pretty that a little drop of oil, as they say, could have rolled right down her smooth golden hair to the straps of her wooden shoes."

Questions to ask to help you write: what is this girl doing? What does she want? If she tries to get what she wants, where does that trying take her? And how will that journey intersect with the journey of the boy (see sentence two)?

2. **Middle:** "Two years later her mother died. But before she did, she put the cord with the key to their chest around her daughter's neck. "Never open the chest, my daughter," she said, "never take out the white gown."

Questions to ask to help you write: how did the girl's mother get the chest? What's inside it? What will happen if the girl opens it? And what about that white gown? What will happen to the girl if she puts it on?

3. And, when you're ready to start looking for your **ending:** "The pair, meanwhile, were urging their horse across what seemed an endless plain. On and on they galloped."

Questions to ask to help you write: who is the girl riding with at the end of the story? Is it someone she loves, romantically? Is it someone she rescues? Is riding away somehow connected to what the girl found in the chest?