Folklore consists of legends, music, oral history, proverbs, jokes, popular beliefs, fairy tales, stories, tall tales, and customs that are the traditions of a culture.

English folklore is the folk tradition which has developed in England over a number of centuries. Some stories can be traced back to their roots, while the origin of others is uncertain or disputed. England abounds with folklore, in all forms, from such obvious manifestations as the traditional Robin Hood tales, the Arthurian legend, the poetry tale of Beowulf, to contemporary urban legends such as the Beast of Bodmin Moor. English folklore is largely drawn from Germanic, Celtic and Christian sources.

A fairy tale is a type of short story that typically features folkloric fantasy characters, such as fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, dwarves, giants, mermaids, or gnomes, and usually magic or enchantments. Like all folktales they are narratives that are not believed to be true, often in timeless settings (once upon a time) in generic, unspecified places (the woods), with one-dimensional characters (completely good or bad). They function to entertain, inspire, and enlighten us. In these episodic narratives the main characters are usually humans who often follow a typical pattern (as in a heroic quest) that is resolved partly by magic.
They take place once upon a time rather than in actual times.

Fairy tales are found in oral and in literary form. They have existed for thousands of years, although not perhaps recognized as a genre; Many of today's fairy tales have evolved from centuries-old stories that have appeared, with variations, in multiple cultures around the world. Fairy tales, and works derived from fairy tales, are still written today.

The older fairy tales were intended for an audience of adults, as well as children, they were associated with children later; the Brothers Grimm titled their collection *Children's and Household Tales*, and the link with children has only grown stronger with time.

The characters and motifs of fairy tales are simple and archetypal: princesses, youngest sons and gallant princes; ogres, \( \text{'əʊɡər} / \) giants, \( \text{'dʒəɪənt} / \) dragons, and trolls; wicked stepmothers; fairy godmothers and other magical helpers, often talking horses, or foxes, or birds; prohibitions and breaking of prohibitions, curses and spells.

The oral tradition of the fairy tale came long before the written page. Tales were told or enacted dramatically, rather than written down, and handed down from generation to generation. There are fairy tale elements in Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, and in many of William Shakespeare plays"
The fairy tale itself became popular among upper-class in France (1690–1710), and among the tales told in that time were the ones of La Fontaine and the Contes of Charles Perrault (1697), whose collections contain the oldest known forms of various fairy tales. The Brothers Grimm compiled several tales for their collection, told orally to them by Germans, because the tales derived from Perrault. The fairy tales of a country were particularly representative of it. Although, fairy tales with very similar plots, characters, and motifs are found spread across many different cultures.

At the same time, folk and fairy tales are inseparable from everyday life and popular culture. Movies, music, art, and literature offer imaginative retellings and interpretations of fairy and folk tales.

M.Carmen Del Moral González
THE BROTHERS GRIMM

The Brothers Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were German academics, linguists, cultural researchers, and authors who together collected folklore. They are among the most well-known storytellers of European folk tales, and their work popularized such stories as "Cinderella", "The Frog Prince", "Hansel and Gretel", "Rapunzel", "Rumpelstiltskin", and "Snow White". Their first collection of folk tales, Children's and Household Tales, was published in 1812.

Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm was born in January 4, 1785, in Hanau, Germany. Just over a year later, in February 24, 1786, his little brother Wilhelm Carl Grimm was born. Their father was a lawyer, and they had six more brothers and one sister.

In 1802, Jacob went to university to study law at the University of Marburg. As always, his little brother followed him, and entered law school in 1803. During their university years they began to collect folk and fairy tales. Folklore is stories that have been passed down from parents to children, by word of mouth, but at that time many had not been published in books. The Grimms were especially interested in stories that included Germany and German culture.

Jacob and Wilhelm published their first book of fairy tales – "Children’s and Household Tales" – in 1812. There were 86 folktales. Readers were so happy to see the stories they had been told as children all collected together that the book was a success. In the next volume of “Grimm’s Fairy Tales”, the brothers added 70
more stories. It went on growing like this for six more editions. Finally, the book contained over 200 stories! It is probably the best-known work of German literature. Even if you don’t know the Brothers Grimm, you definitely know a Grimm fairy tale.

If only all brothers were as close as the Brothers Grimm. They were always together – even when Wilhelm married his wife Henriette, Jacob continued to live with them! The Brothers Grimm were both professors and scholars. In fact, Jacob Grimm is considered to be the father of the study of German history. They both taught as professors in Germany’s capitol, at the University of Berlin. They became known throughout Europe as experts on anything to do with folktales, language, and anything German. They were so into books that they both became librarians as well! During their lifetimes they published many more very important books, including “German Mythology”, “Old German Tales”, “The History of the German Language”, and even the German Dictionary.

Grimm fairy tales include stories of kings, magic, and talking animals. Even though the stories are sometimes scary, fairy tales allow us to work through our fears. They often teach us a lesson about moral values, and right and wrong.

M. Carmen Del Moral González