

Europe Day

9th May



9th May is Europe Day, which is celebrated across Europe.

Every year on May 9th, we celebrate Europe Day. It is a special day to celebrate friendship and peace between countries in Europe.

A long time ago, a man named Robert Schuman had a brilliant idea: he wanted countries to work together as a team so they would never fight a war again. His idea started the European Union, which helps countries stay united and keep things peaceful today.

The UK is not in the European Union, but it is on the continent of Europe and we have lots of similarities with other European countries.

**A lot of your
favourite stories and
films came from
other parts of
Europe originally!**



Charles Perrault was a French author who wrote down many famous fairytales in the 1600s, helping to make stories like Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty popular all over the world.



The Brothers Grimm were two German brothers who traveled around their country collecting traditional folk tales from people to make sure the stories were preserved for future generations.

We're going to read
two of their stories.
What similarities
and differences do
you notice?



Le petit chaperon rouge

Little Red Riding Hood

Charles Perrault's version, 1600s



Once upon a time, there was a sweet girl who loved to wear a bright red cape. Her mother asked her to take a basket of cakes to her grandmother, who lived deep in the woods. "Be careful," her mother said, "and don't talk to any strangers along the way."



As the girl walked through the trees, a hungry wolf jumped out. He acted very friendly and asked where she was going. The girl didn't know he was a trickster, so she told him all about her grandmother's house. The wolf ran ahead as fast as he could.



The wolf reached the house first and tricked the grandmother. He then climbed into her bed, pulled the covers up to his nose, and waited. When the little girl walked in, she went to the bed and said, “Oh, Grandmother, what big ears you have!”



“All the better to hear you with!”
said the wolf. “And Grandmother,”
the girl whispered, “what big teeth
you have!” The wolf growled, “All
the better to eat you with!” And
with one big gulp, he swallowed
the girl up.



In the version that Charles Perrault wrote a long, long time ago, that is exactly how the story ended. The wolf had fooled everyone, and the story served as a very serious warning to children to always listen to their parents and stay safe on their path.



Brothers Grimm version, 1800s

Schneewittchen *Snow White*



Once, a beautiful queen wished for a baby. Soon, she had a daughter, named Snow White. Sadly, the queen died, and the king married a new, proud wife. This queen had a magic mirror and asked it, "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" The mirror always said, "You are," until Snow White grew up.



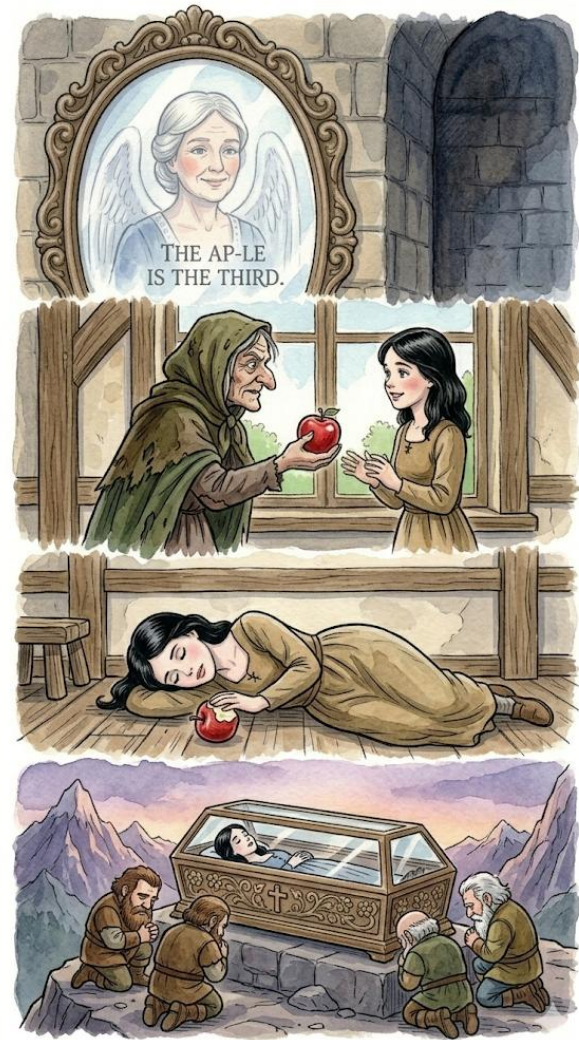
One day, the mirror told the queen that Snow White was the fairest! Furious, the queen ordered a huntsman to take Snow White into the deep woods and make sure she never came back. But the huntsman was kind. He let her go and told her to hide.



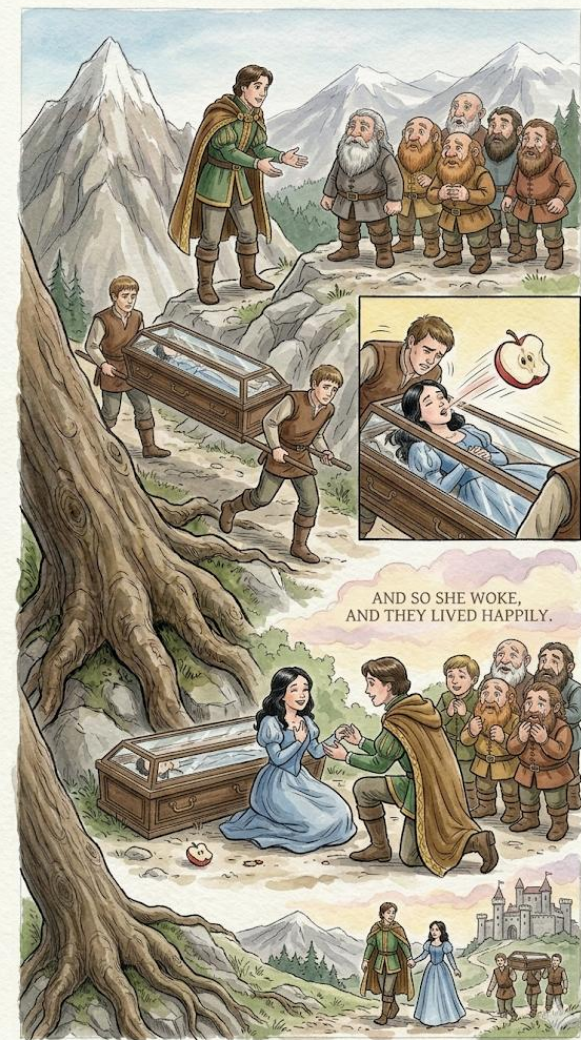
Snow White found a tiny cottage where seven kind dwarves lived, and they said she could stay. But the mirror told the queen that Snow White was still alive! The wicked queen disguised herself and tried to stop Snow White three times with tricky, dangerous gifts. The dwarves saved her twice.



Finally, the queen came with a perfect, but poisoned, red apple. Snow White thought it was safe, but after one bite she fell very still. The sad dwarves put her in a beautiful glass coffin on a mountain.



A prince saw Snow White and asked to take the coffin to his castle. As his servants carried it, they stumbled over a huge root! The jolt made the piece of poisoned apple pop right out of Snow White's mouth! She woke up, smiling, and they lived happily ever after.



What similarities and differences did you notice?



What is your favourite story? Why? Are there different versions of it? I wonder if they came from somewhere else in Europe originally...?

