Kathleen Stafford

Fairy Tale Exploration

1.

* How would the story be different if the girl had obeyed the bear’s wishes?
* What is the significance of the girl’s drawn out journey?
* Are there other fairy tales that this compares to? How? (Sword in the Stone)
* Was the girl’s father being selfish in his decision? What proof did he have that his daughter would be safe?
* How does this story compare to the typical “damsel in distress” fairy tale? What’s different about it?
* Do you think the old women actually knew the way to the castle all along? What proof is there?

2.

* Pattern of 3’s
  + 3 old ladies
  + 3 gifts
  + 3 failed wind attempts
  + 3 nights with the prince
* Wicked Stepmother
  + In a majority of fairy tales there’s a wicked/evil stepmother.
    - Cinderella, Hansel & Gretel, Snow White, etc.
  + Although the evil stepmother was only present for a very short time, she was the cause of the separation and heartache for the girl.

**3.**

**Pretty girl vs Girl with long nose**

**Pretty Girl**

* Selfless
* Determined
* Kind
* “Damsel in Distress”
  + Not typical
  + She travels a long distance to “save” her prince but “saving” herself at the same time.
* Clever
* “Good”
* Beautiful
  + Matches personality

**Girl with Long Nose**

* Selfish
* Clever
* Greedy
* “evil” (locked up the Christian folks)
* Ugly
  + Matches personality

**Conclusion:** Good always triumphs evil. Although the pretty girl disobeyed the bear/prince about talking to her mother alone, which turned out to be their undoing, she redeemed herself and worked hard to right that wrong.