Stereotyping and gender bias in classic fairy tales

Stereotyping and social reflection

- Stereotypes: In social psychology, a stereotype is a fixed, over generalized belief about a particular group or class of people (McLeod, 2017; SimplyPsychology, 2022). It is a set of cognitive generalizations (e.g., beliefs, expectations) about the qualities and characteristics of the members of a group or social category (APA Dictionary, 2022).
- Gender bias: any one of a variety of stereotypical beliefs about individuals on the basis of their sex, particularly as related to the differential treatment of females and males (APA Dictionary, 2022).
- Social reflection: to what extend society is reflected in literary production (i.e. how values, norms, beliefs, stereotypes, etc. are reflected in fairy tales) (Social Research Glossary, 2022).
- As society's image changes, fairy tale's image changes.

Social Gender Reflection in classic Fairy Tales

Female stereotypes

• ...



Male stereotypes

• ..



Social Gender Reflection in classic Fairy Tales

Female characteristics

- Beautiful
- Polite
- Graceful
- Virtuous
- Industrious
- Properly groomed
- Stupid (?)
- Has selfcontrol

- Reserved
- Patient
- Loyal
- Modest
- Docile
- Submissive/ subservient
- Passive (She waits)

Male characteristics

- Intelligent
- Courageous
- With deft manners
- Ambitious
- Strive for social success and achievement
- Act with civility/politeness
- Eloquent
- Active

... and they lived happily ever after!

