

Triple Ripple

By Brigid Lowry

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Summary

Triple Ripple is a playful and adventurous take on the fairytale genre. Readers can't help but be drawn in by the three stories woven skillfully into one book by the popular and award winning author Brigid Lowry.

The Writer begins with a sparkly good idea, creates a place, adds characters, then gives them adventures, big and small.

First thread: Glory is sent to work as a maid in the Royal Palace. Can she help the petulant princess? Can she find love? And escape a fatal curse?

Second thread: Nova has lost her best friend and bitchy Dylan is hassling her. Can she find solace in a good book? And make peace with Dylan?

Third thread: Can the Writer make everything turn out happily ever after? Or are there always going to be lumps and bumps along the way?

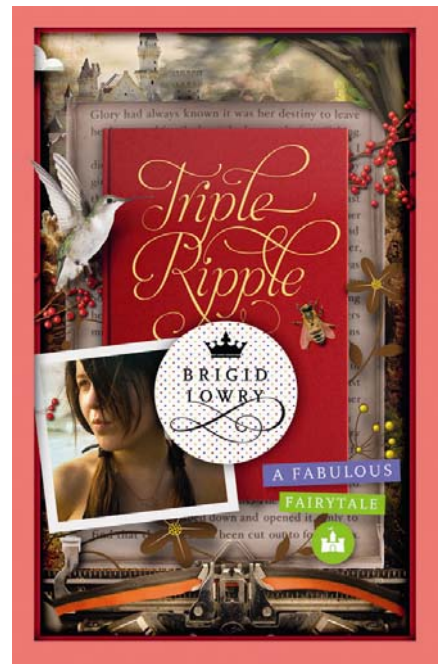
Triple Ripple is an exceptional text to start in-depth classroom conversations on writing conventions and the writing process. On top of that, it is just a really great read!

Use in the curriculum

- ❖ Suitable for students aged 12+ (particularly years 8 and 9)
- ❖ VELS levels 5 and 6 (Victoria), Stages 4 and 5 (N.S.W.), Standard 4 - stages 9-13 and Standard 5 14-15 (Tasmania), Year 8 - 10 (Queensland), Early and Late adolescence (Western Australia), and SACSA Standards 4 and 5 (years 8 and 9), Band 4- 5 (years 8- 10) (Northern Territory) and Early adolescence (years 8-10) (A.C.T.)
- ❖ Australian Curriculum (Draft version 1.1.0) years 8-10.
- ❖ Using *Triple Ripple* as a class text in English or English Literature would lead to in-depth discussions about writing conventions, the process of writing and if meaning is made purely by the reader. It is suggested that *Triple Ripple* be studied:
- ❖ As an English or English Literature text:
 - as an example of a fairytale with a modern twist;
 - as an example of parody;
 - as an example of metafiction;
 - as a basis for detailed discussions on the writing process;
 - as a basis for detailed discussions on how the reader makes meaning from the text.

Sample discussion questions and suggested support materials overleaf.

Curriculum recommendation and discussion questions prepared by Judith Way. Judith Way is a teacher-librarian with a Graduate Diploma of Children's Literature and a Master of Arts. She was the recipient of IASL/Softlink International Excellence Award for 2010, the School Library Association of Victoria's John Ward Award for outstanding contribution to teacher librarianship in 2007 and the SLAV Innovators Grant in 2009. She was awarded the Children's Book Council of Australia Eleanor E. Robertson prize in 2003. She has presented at conferences locally and internationally.



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In the classroom...

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Discussion Questions

1. Using a triple narrative is very unusual. Can you explain why the author has used this device? What do you think she would like to achieve by using it?
2. Which characters are aligned with traditional fairytale stereotypes? Give at least five examples. Why has the author portrayed these characters this way?
3. In what ways does Nova's life echo that of Princess Mirabella? Use examples to illustrate your answer.
4. As the story progresses, 'the reader's' sections become longer and play more of a part. Why has the author done this and how does it affect the book as a whole?
5. Why does the author use humour in Glory's story? What does that help signify?
6. How does the author's own narrative help you understand the process of writing?
7. Why does the author deliberately leave a mistake in the book ("A chapter with a bad mistake in it" pp. 53-54) and then point it out to readers (p. 55)? The author says that photography was invented in 1932. Is that true? Why would she say this knowing that it isn't correct?
8. Why do you think that 'the writer' and 'the reader' sections are written in the first person and the fairytale is written in the third person?
9. Does *Triple Ripple* qualify as a piece of metafiction or would you describe it as a parody (or something else)? Explain your answers using examples.
10. Can you classify *Triple Ripple* as a subversive or a traditional fairytale? What elements are needed for a story to be classified as a fairytale? What elements subvert this? Use examples in the story to explain your choice.

Suggested teaching tools to support the study of *Triple Ripple*:

Writing resources:

Juicy writing by Brigid Lowry
Everything I know about writing by John Marsden
Speaking volumes : conversations with remarkable writers by Ramona Koval
The word spy by Ursula Dubosarsky

DVDs:

Shrek 1-3
Ella enchanted
The princess bride
Ever after
Stardust
Fractured fairy tales from 'The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show' (if available)

Fairy tales:

Hans Christian Anderson (traditional)
Grimm's fairytales (traditional)
The stinky cheese man and other fairly stupid tales by Jon Scieszka (non-traditional)
Fractured fairytales by AJ Jacobs (non-traditional)
Pretty monsters by Kelly Link (contemporary)
Three wishes by Isabelle Merlin (contemporary)
The sisters Grimm series by Michael Buckley (non-traditional)