



Using a dictionary to find out the meaning of words



Cathy is reading a biography of the Brothers Grimm. Read the biography.

### The Brothers Grimm — The Folktales' Saviours

*Grimm's Fairy Tales* is a famous book that children from all over the world have heard of. *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Frog Prince*—you could probably name a few tales in the book. But how much do you know about the Brothers Grimm, who collected the stories, put them together and published this classic piece of literature?



Born in 1785 and 1786 respectively, Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm were German scholars and linguists.

Their father died of a lung disease in 1796 when they were young. Since then, as the two eldest brothers of the family, Jacob and Wilhelm had to take care of their younger siblings. They developed a strong and deep bond with each other.

The brothers studied diligently. They followed in their father's footsteps to pursue a law degree at university. During that time, they took an interest in folklore under the influence of their poet friends.

In their 20s, the brothers began to gather German folktales that had been passed down orally for generations. To prevent them from disappearing, they decided to put the tales in print.

The earliest editions of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* were targeted at adults. In the original versions, the stories contained dark elements like violence and sex. Later, the brothers changed their minds and edited the stories to make them suitable for children to read. The book has seen numerous editions to become the version we read today.

Apart from working on *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, the brothers also worked on a German dictionary, which was said to be the most comprehensive dictionary of the language. They worked on it for around two decades until their deaths—Wilhelm in 1859, and Jacob four years after that in 1863.



10 mins

DATE

Choose the best answers by blackening the circles.

1. *Grimm's Fairy Tales* is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a book about children
- B. a classic romance novel
- C. a book that almost everyone knows
- D. a famous book in Europe only

2. Which of the following is TRUE about the Brothers Grimm?

- A. They grew up in a French family.
- B. They had a close sibling relationship.
- C. They published books for profit.
- D. They made up many fairy tales.



3. In line 22, what does the word 'seen' mean?

**see** (v.) (past: **saw**, past participle: **seen**)

1. to meet someone

*'Nancy hasn't seen her teachers since she left school.'*

2. to consider something in a particular way

*'The book is seen as one of the greatest ever written.'*

3. to experience something

*'The proposal has seen many changes before it is turned in.'*

4. to make sure that something is done

*'I went back to check the door again to see if it is locked.'*



Tip  
Q3: Read the examples.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

4. How old was Jacob Grimm when he passed away?

- A. 73
- B. 74
- C. 77
- D. 78

Complete the answers.

5. What subject did the Brothers Grimm study at university?

They \_\_\_\_\_.

6. How many years did the Brothers Grimm spend on the German dictionary?

They spent \_\_\_\_\_.

Fill in each blank with ONE word from the biography. Change the word form when necessary.

The Brothers Grimm were 7. \_\_\_\_\_ students. They later became

8. \_\_\_\_\_ in folk stories and published the stories they collected...



READING