

“Advanced” Fairy Tales on Trial
By Janis Silverman

I must say that I agree with the statement that teachers of gifted students must know about a variety of books that go beyond the normal grade level texts. Some of our gifted students are well read, and have read the books on the current grade level’s reading list. This book, by Janis Silverman, is very enlightening

This book is for the teacher that wants a unique learning tool to teach character education through critical thinking and problem solving. This method of teaching involves two of the favorite things my seventh graders enjoy doing: talking/debating and working as a team. The trials from this book teach the children how to analyze values and characters in the lives of others, as well as in their own, using the framework of the judicial process. These mock trials present a setting where teamwork is imperative. The work will challenge them and allow them to express their creativity.

Choosing one of these trials is an excellent way to teach the students about how choices affect your life, still enforcing character education and critical thinking. As I read through the exercises in this book, I noticed that most of the questions are higher level thinking questions that support Bloom’s Taxonomy and the level at which I want my students to achieve.

The book includes fun activities we could use to engage our students and encourage higher order thinking.

Leandra Roberts