

# Retelling Strategies for Writer's Workshop

## FAQ: What is a retelling?

**Answer:** Retellings take existing stories and share them again in a new author's words **or** use one or a combination of the following strategies:

- \*change the gender of the main character
- \*flip the protagonist to the antagonist
- \*change the setting
- \*changing all characters to animals
- \*change perspective

This writing activity is a great place to start writer's workshop with children. Retellings provide structure for plot and resolution and yet incorporate creativity when using one or more of the strategies listed above.

**Check out this fun list of books to share with your class!**

## **Cinderella Tales:**

Cinderella Penguin by Janet Perlman (change characters to animals)

Dinorella by Pamela Duncan Edwards (change characters to animals)

The Irish Cinderlad Shirley Climo and Loretta Krupinski (gender change)

Bubba the Cowboy Prince by Helen Ketteman (gender change & setting change)

Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (change the setting)

Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella by Susan Lowell (change the setting)

Prince Cinders by Babette Cole (gender change & change character to animal)

Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella (change perspective)

## **The Princess and the Pea Tales:**

The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-to-be by Mini Grey (change protagonist)

The Penguin and the Pea by Janet Perlman (change characters to animals)

## **The Emperor's New Clothes Tales:**

The Principal's New Clothes by Stephanie Calmenson (change setting)

The Emperor Penguin's New Clothes (change characters to animals)

The Dinosaur's New Clothes by Diane Goode (change characters to animals)

The Emperor's New Clothes: An All-Star Illustrated Retelling of the Classic Fairy Tale (Paperback) by Starbright Foundation (change perspectives)

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears Tales:**

Gordon Loggins and the Three Bears by Linda Bailey (gender change)

Dusty Locks and the Three Bears by Susan Lowells (change setting)

**The Three Little Pigs Tales:**

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas (change antagonist)

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka (change protagonist)

The Three Little Javelinas by Susan Lowell (change setting)

Three Little Cajun Pigs by Mike Artell (change setting)

**Jack and the Beanstalk Tales:**

Kate and the Beanstalk by Mary Pope Osborne (gender change)

Jack and the Giant: A Story Full of Beans by Jim Harris (change setting)

**The Brave Little Tailor Tales:**

The Brave Little Seamstress by Mary Pope Osborne (gender change)

**Snow White Tales:**

Snow White in New York by Fiona French (change setting)

**Little Red Riding Hood Tales:**

The Wolf's Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood by Toby Forward  
(change perspective)

Little Red Riding Hood: A Newfangled Prairie Tale by Lisa Campbell Ernst  
(change setting)

Little Red Cowboy Hat by Susan Lowell (change setting)

**The Gingerbread Man Tales:**

The Gingerbread Cowboy by Janet Squires (change setting)