

*Metamorphosis: The Evolution of Fairy Tales to Tairy Fales!
Storyteller, Carol Esterreicher, Ed.S.
Member: Utah Storytelling Guild
Member: National Storytelling Network*

Renewed interest in storytelling as a performing art in general and fairy tales in particular, prompts us to explore word play strategies that “tickle the tale” in creative ways! The excursion from page to stage engages the storyteller’s creative pursuit of connections with numerous audience types in pursuit of transporting them to magically enchanting times and places. Intentional “metamorphosis” of classic tales using word play releases intuitive creative forces that reside deep within the storyteller still unknown, or just “below the surface” persistently urging expression.

On the page, we apply differing word play strategies to the same tale depending on the potential audiences’ ages and interests and the responses expected. Most people have heard “spoonerisms” and will happily recall those they have enjoyed in the past. Other less familiar inventions such as substitutions and lipograms, (exclusions) render surprising and delightful linguistic delicacies.

On the stage, we prepare and predispose audiences to accept the premise, “because this story is already present in your memory, you will find this adapted and metamorphosed version surprisingly easy to understand and enjoy.” Pace your presentation. Be prepared to “step outside your story” to comment and bring the audience’s understanding and appreciation up to speed. Storytelling with a live audience invites a give-and-take connection that is one of storytelling’s most enticing sources of fulfillment for artist and audience alike.

Children giggle at the surprising sounds of the words. Following a story concert, they have been overheard repeating favorites including “Mairy Fodgother,” and “Beeping Sleauty.” Adults reminisce about word plays heard over generations since the 1940’s when radio personality, Frederick Chase Taylor (18-97-1950), as Col. Stoopnagle, had his listeners chuckling over the linguistic improbabilities of “spoonerisms.” Spoonerisms’ namesake is the Reverend W.A. Spooner (1844-1930) whose peculiar speech impediment, included reversing and rearranging sounds and syllables.

298 words

References

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**Esterreicher, Carol (2007). “Why Word Play?” on-line article
<http://www.storyteller.net/tellers/cesterreicher>**

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Resume:

Carol Esterreicher
14043 Somerset Hills Ct.
Draper, Utah 84020
801-561-5669

Education: MA (1973) University of Maryland (Speech/Language Pathology)
Ed.S. (1981) University of Utah (Educational Administration)

Profession: Speech/Language Pathologist (30 years/retired)

Profession: Storyteller/Performing Artist

Author: Esterreicher, Carol. (1995). SCAMPER Strategies –FUNDamental Activities for Narrative Development. Eau Claire, WI: Thinking Publications.

Websites:

<http://www.carolstories.com>

<http://www.storyteller.net/tellers/cesterreicher>

<http://www.nowplayingutah.com> Artist's Profile/Storyteller

Venues Featuring Word Play with Fairy Tales (Tairy Fales)

Recent Past

This is the Place Heritage Park Pumpkin Patch

A Pumpkin Tale: **R**indercella and the **P**randsome **H**ince

Utah Storytelling Guild Storyfest 2006

Presentation and Workshop: Word Play Little Red Riding Hood

Substitution Strategy: Ladle Rat Rotten Hoof

Utah Arts Festival 2007 (The Word Ecstatic)

Word Play with **R**indercella's **S**lass **G**lipper

First Annual Kanab Storytelling Festival

The Three **P**iddle **L**igs performed at an elementary school.

Club Solitude: Christmas Eve 2004-2007

Featuring: The **C**hright Before **N**istmas

Hear it: <http://www.storyteller.net/tellers/cesterreicher>

Upcoming (June-July 2008)

Utah Arts Festival 2008

On stage 5:00 p.m. at the Big Mouth Café

Thursday June 26 selected "tairy fales," urban legends, Aesop's fables, folk tales and personal stories.

Gallivan Center Lunch Bunch Event Noon-1:00 PM

July 7, 2008

Word Play with Classic Fairy Tales – Some that are being told for the First time for public enjoyment!

