

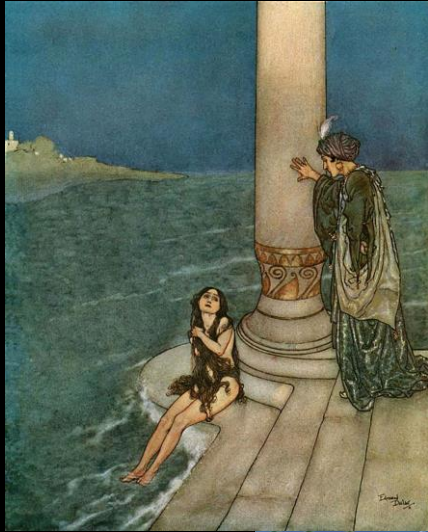
What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

StephanieMorrill.com/OYANer



What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Don't be afraid to borrow inspiration from others.



ELIZABETH GILBERT

author of *EAT, PRAY, LOVE*

BIG MAGIC

CREATIVE LIVING
BEYOND FEAR

“Aspiring writers will often tell me, ‘I have an idea, but I’m afraid it’s already been done.’ Well, yes, it probably has already been done. Most things have already been done—but they have not yet been done by *you*.”

"In literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring twopence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it."

-C.S. Lewis

GoTeenWriters.com

What story do I love and wish I had written?

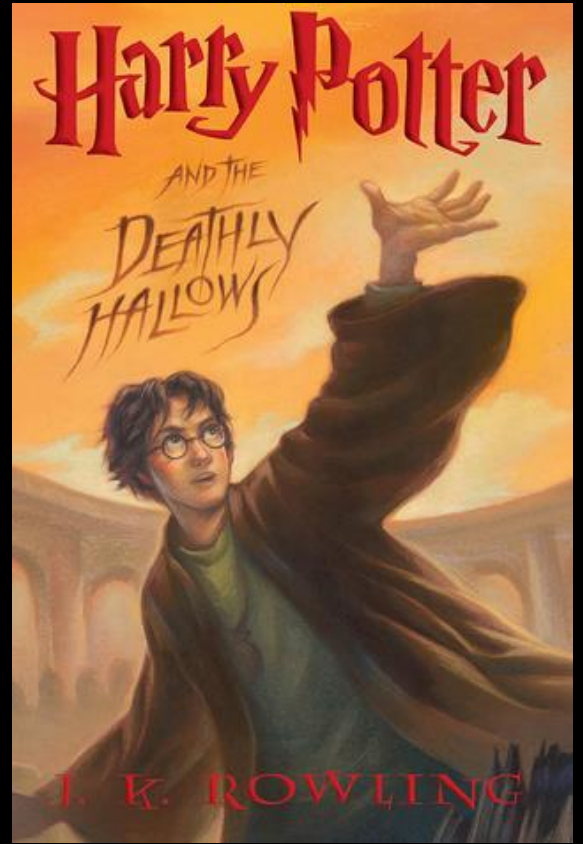
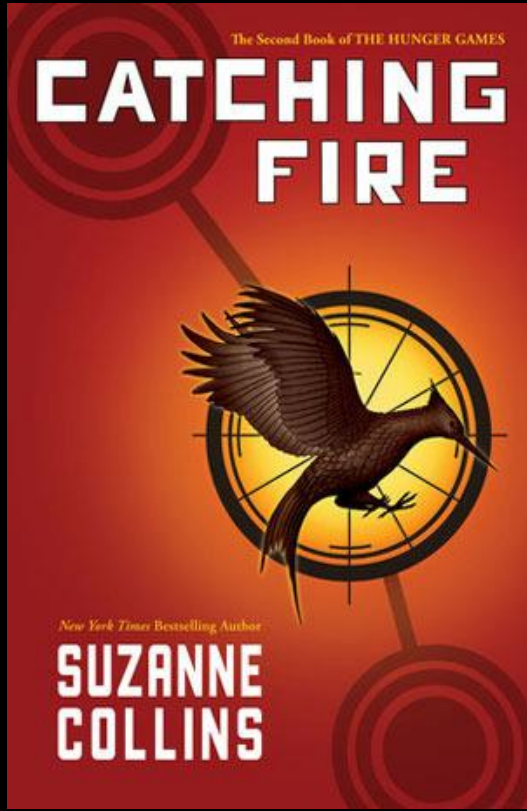
What specifically do I love about this story?

How could I recreate those elements that I love in a story that's mine?

What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Don't be afraid to borrow inspiration from others.

Get specific about your target audience.



What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Don't be afraid to borrow inspiration from others.

Get specific about your target audience.

Start with a sympathetic or relatable situation.





What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Don't be afraid to borrow inspiration from others.

Get specific about your target audience.

Start with a sympathetic or relatable situation.

Give your main character a clearly defined goal.



Outer goal: Wants to win the Piston cup.

Inner need: Community



Outer goal: To see the
floating lights

Inner need: Freedom



Outer goal: To talk to
Elsa and bring back
summer.

Inner need: To be loved

What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

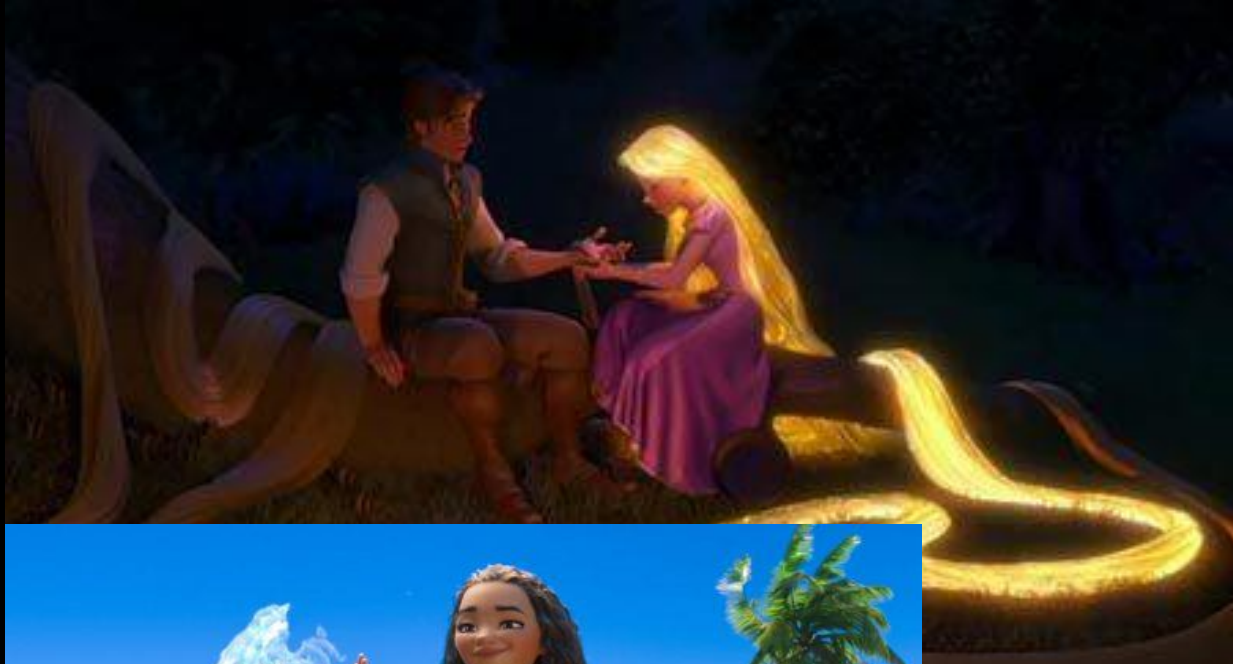
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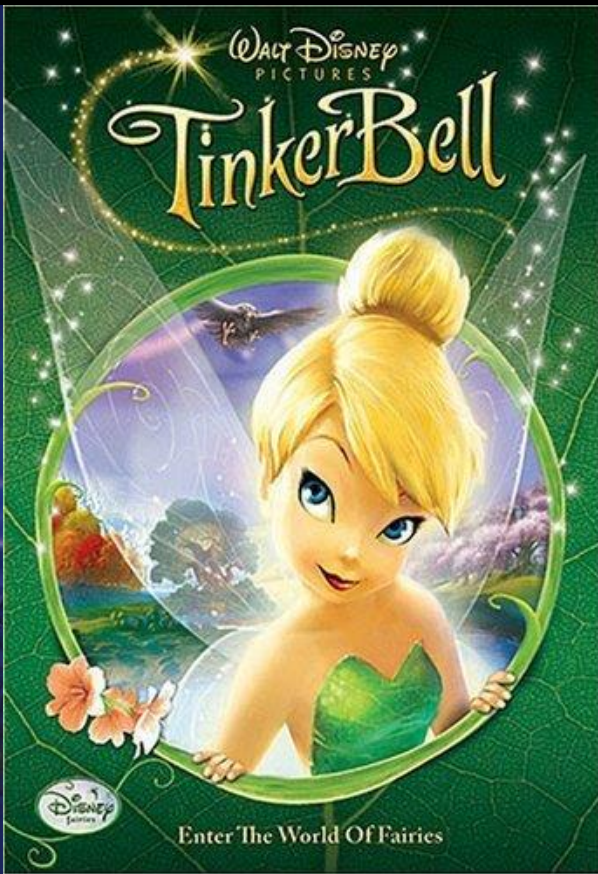
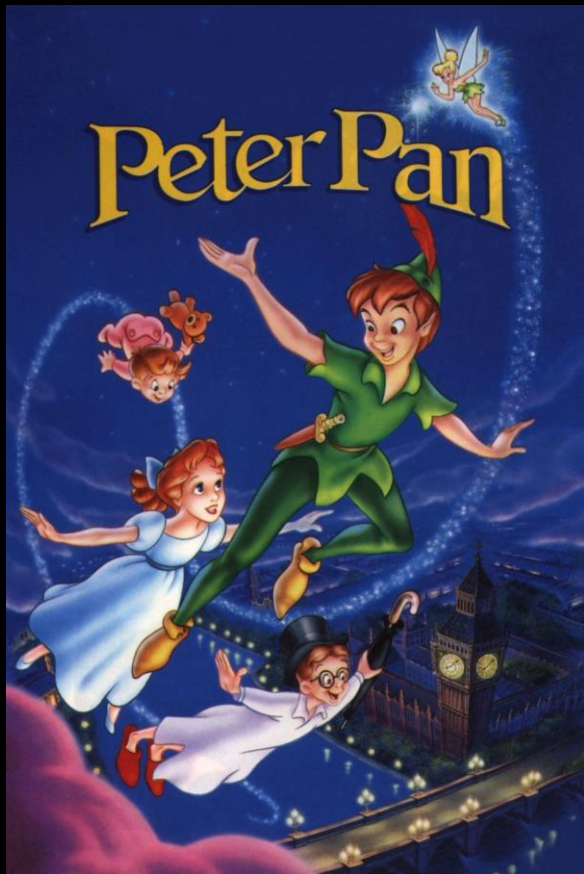
Give your main character a super power.





What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Take the audience to interesting places.



"Inexplicably thrilling... With this beautifully executed drama, Stiefvater has established herself as one of the finest YA novelists writing today." — Entertainment Weekly

MAGGIE
STIEFVATER



THE
SCORPIO
RACES

“Fathom & Sons is a narrow, dark corridor of a shop, stuffed like a Cornish hen, with odds and ends labeled with little price tags that glow like white teeth in the dim light. It always smells a little like butter browning in a pan—so, like heaven.”

Jill Williamson

STORYWORLD FIRST



Creating a unique
fantasy world
for your novel

What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Take readers to interesting places.

Readers don't need that much backstory.







What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Take readers to interesting places.

Readers don't need that much backstory.

How to use the good and bad pendulum.

Bad for Rapunzel



Good for Rapunzel



Bad for Rapunzel



Good for Rapunzel



Bad for Rapunzel



What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Take readers to interesting places.

Readers don't need that much backstory.

How to use the good and bad pendulum.

How to show character change.

Lightning goes back to
racing



BUT

He's distracted by how
much he misses
Radiator Springs



Cinderella goes back to
serving her family

BUT

can't stop thinking about
the ball.



Rapunzel goes back
to her tower

BUT

can't stop thinking
about her time at the
festival

What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Take readers to interesting places.

Readers don't need that much backstory.

How to use the good and bad pendulum.

How to show character change.

Have a very, very, very black moment





What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Characters who sacrifice are powerful







What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Characters who sacrifice are powerful

How to leave an audience happy



What Storytellers Can Learn From Disney

Don't be afraid to borrow inspiration from others.

Readers don't need that much backstory.

Get specific about your target audience.

How to use the good and bad pendulum.

Start with a sympathetic or relatable situation.

How to show character change.

Give your main character a clearly defined goal.

Have a very, very, very black moment.

Give your main character a super power.

Characters who sacrifice are powerful.

Take readers to interesting places.

How to leave an audience happy.