

## Re-telling the Tale

### Purpose

Students will use a computer to draft, revise, and publish their writing.

### Materials

*For the teacher:* copies of the books *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas, *Squids Will Be Squids* by John Scieszka  
*For the students:* access to a computer and word processing program

### Activity

#### A. Using the Computer

1. Have students become familiar with keyboarding and using a mouse by playing interactive word games on the Internet.
2. Assess which students are computer literate to determine which ones may be able to assist classmates with this activity.
3. Type a page from *Cinderella* or *The Little Glass Slipper* by Charles Perrault (or an original piece) into your school computer, saving the file as “tale.” (Have an extra copy of this file ready in case a student accidentally saves an altered version under the same name.)

#### B. Revising the Tale

1. Read or summarize *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* or a tale from *Squids Will Be Squids*.
2. Tell students that this is an author’s revision of an old folktale.
3. Explain to students that they will be rewriting a folktale in their own style by using the cut and paste features on the computer.
4. Demonstrate how to find a file on a computer; start a new document; and insert, cut, and paste text.
5. Tell students to imagine the following scenario:  
You have written Perrault’s *Cinderella* as the first draft of a tale that you will publish. However, upon reading it through a second time your editors decide that it needs a livelier style.
6. Tell students to find their file named “tale” and insert, cut, and paste their new ideas into the story.

(continued)



#### INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY

Give students time to work on computers during independent writing time. Have them finish and title their stories.



#### connecting across the curriculum

#### Visual Arts

Have students analyze the design of *Squids Will Be Squids*. Have them identify what makes it look unique. Have them change the fonts on their own completed stories, add graphics, and print copies for their own book.

Standards Links  
4.5.5, 4.4.12

**Activity (continued)** 

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7. Suggest that students can change the order of events, characters from good to bad and bad to good, the object of the main character's quest, or whatever else they want. The only requirements are that the story has to be coherent (it can be silly and coherent) and items must be spelled and spaced correctly.

**C. Closing the Activity**




1. Have students complete their revised tale.
2. Ask your student assistants to help anyone who has questions and have them make sure that each student replaces the filename "tale" with his/her own name before it is saved.

**Questions for Review** 

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**Basic Concepts and Processes**

When students have completed their stories to their satisfaction, check their understanding by asking the following questions:

-  What step do you take on the computer to cut a word or a sentence from a story?
  -  Why is it important to save your changes as you revise your story?
  -  How does revising a story improve it?
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