

# Fairy Tales: *The Little Mermaid*

## THEME

Long long ago, in the Deep Sea kingdom, there lived the sea king with his five mermaid daughters. Sirenetta was the youngest and the loveliest among them. She had a beautiful voice and everybody from far and wide came to hear her sing and praised her voice and her beauty. One day, while Sirenetta was swimming on the surface of the water and watching ships go by, she saw a young man falling off his ship. She swam swiftly to save him from drowning and dragged him to the shore. Soon, people found the man on the shore and Sirenetta swam away. This man was actually the prince of a kingdom. When he became conscious, the prince looked around for the girl who had saved him but no one knew who she was.

Sirenetta often thought of the young man and fell in love with the prince, but she was sad because she could never be like all the other ladies he knew. They had two feet and she had a fish tail!

In the Deep Sea lived a witch with magical powers. One day, Sirenetta went to beg her for human legs. The witch said, "I need your beautiful voice! Only then I shall give you legs! But you must remember, every time you set your feet on the ground, it will hurt very badly!" Sirenetta agreed. She did not mind the pain. All she wanted was to be with the prince. As soon as she got her two feet Sirenetta became dumb. When she was leaving, the witch said, "If your prince marries anybody else, you shall dissolve in the sea water. You can never become a mermaid again!"

With the witch's magic spell, Sirenetta found herself lying on the beach and the prince looking down at her. He asked, "Where are you from?" But she could not reply. The prince took her to his palace and looked after her. They became good friends and had a wonderful time together. Every step Sirenetta took hurt, but she bore it all silently. She loved the prince but the prince was in love with the beautiful maiden who had saved him. The prince did not realise it had been Sirenetta and she couldn't tell him.

Obedying the wishes of his father, the prince went to meet the daughter of a neighbouring king. Enchanted by her beauty the prince was convinced this was the same maiden who rescued him. He asked the princess to marry him. A grand wedding took place.

Sirenetta was heartbroken. That night, crying she ran to the seashore. There she saw four mermaids. Why, they were her sisters! One of them handed her a knife and said, "Here, Sirenetta! This is a magic knife! We gave our long hair locks to the witch of the Deep Sea and she gave this to us in return. Kill your prince and you shall turn into a mermaid again! Then you can come and live with us!"

Sirenetta took the magic knife and went to the prince's room at night. But she loved him so much that she could not kill him. She knew that at dawn, she would vanish



## Clip to watch

## MEANING

Like with all the fairy tales we will look at, The Little Mermaid has many meanings. At first look, it could be that you must obey your parents. It could be that you should always follow your dreams, whatever it takes.

As the Little Mermaid is willing to sacrifice her voice to have legs and see what the world outside the sea is like. It also means that she is coming out of her comfort zone to achieve more with her life. Can you say you challenge yourself and do things outside of your comfort zone? Like most tales, it does not have a happy ending rather a positive one.

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*Lord, we place these people and situations before  
you and ask you to help. In the name of the  
Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## BIBLICAL LINK

How can we link this fairy tale to the Bible or Gospel values? If we look at the modern version of the fairy tale in the Disney version of the Little Mermaid from 1989, we can look at the religious ideas. One of the main links is to the Fall in Genesis 1. Ariel can be seen as Eve, a woman who wanted knowledge and to experience the world as it is. Ursula, is Satan who tempted her and give her the means to experience the world. In the Fall, Satan tempts Eve with the fruit from the tree of knowledge, whereas in this story it is a spell that would allow her to have legs rather than her voice. Ariel's dad, King Triton is clearly a God figure, a rule setter, the one who Ariel disobeys, just like Eve in the Fall.

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

### Key Questions....

What would you have done if you were in the Little Mermaid's position?

What do you think it would be like to live as a mermaid?

How does this relate to you?



Sacred time this week can link to the British Value of **rule of law**. This is because in the fairy tale, The Little Mermaid disobeyed the laws of her father and the kingdom. Laws are in our country to protect us and to protect society. If we break the law we are punished so that do not do it again.

## PRAYER

Dear lord,  
Challenge us to move out of our comfort zones so we can see the real world and all it has to offer. Give us the confidence to do all that we can to achieve our dreams and to stay true to ourselves.

We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

DAILY BIBLE READING