

**Eng 105**  
**UNIT 1 EXAM**

**DIRECTIONS:**

Choose *one* question from Section I and write a thesis-driven essay in response to it. Choose *one* question from Section II and write a thesis-driven essay in response to it. *Each* of your essays *must* be a minimum of *two pages* long.

**SECTION I (50 points)**

1. What does the act of eating symbolize in fairy tales, and what does it contribute to the meaning of the stories? Analyze the meaning of this symbol, using at least three fairy tales from our reading list.
2. What happens to fairy-tale characters who go into the woods? Analyze the meaning of this metaphor, using at least three fairy tales from our reading list.
3. In "The Golden Bird," the king's third son disobeys the friendly fox repeatedly, but still achieves a good outcome by the end of his quest. In "Little Red-Cap," however, Red disobeys her mother only once and gets devoured by the wolf. Why are the consequences of disobedience so different between these two stories? Use the stories to demonstrate your point.
4. In the Introduction to *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, J. K. Rowling says that the female characters in Beedle's tales "are much more active in seeking their fortunes" than fairy-tale heroines in our (Muggle) fairy tales. Is Rowling correct in implying that fairy-tale heroines in conventional tales are passive? You must use at least three Grimm's fairy tales to demonstrate your point, and you may use Beedle's tales as comparison or contrast if you want to.

**SECTION II (50 points)**

5. What does the Christian religious imagery in Oscar Wilde's fairy tales contribute to the meaning of the stories?
6. In conventional fairy tales, like those written by the Brothers Grimm, good characters are good looking, and bad ones are ugly. Does Wilde challenge and/or redefine conventional fairy-tale understandings of beauty and goodness? If he does, how does he do so, and what is the effect? If he does not, how does he follow the conventions, and what is the effect?
7. Conventional fairy tales (like "The White Snake") often make use of friendly, helpful animals. How does Wilde break with this convention in his fairy tales? How are his animals different, and what effect do they have on the meaning of the stories?
8. Both "The Devoted Friend" and "The Warlock's Hairy Heart" are disturbing and upsetting stories. What place do these unsettling stories (and/or others like them) have in a child's library? In other words, what do these stories offer children?