

Read the following text and do the tasks below:

## Highly intelligent stories

Some people worry that folk tales and fairy stories encourage children to believe things that can't happen in the real world. The highly praised children's writer Gillian Poulson couldn't disagree more. Stories, she says, help to develop a child's imagination. 'One of the main points of these stories,' she explains, 'is that **they** don't happen in the real world. Once children have visited the other worlds stories describe, they are never quite the same. They learn to question the world they see around them, and perhaps to change it.'

She's not alone in this opinion. The great scientist Albert Einstein once said: 'If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read **them** more fairy tales.' Research has shown that children who grow up hearing, and later reading, stories are much more likely to get good exam results, not just in language but also in maths and science.

Gillian Poulson thinks the reason why children love fairy tales is quite simple. 'They just want to know what happens next. Folk tales or fairy stories are especially good for **this** because they don't normally have anything extra to get in the way. You don't need to know what the character is feeling or thinking, just what they do next. So you can start your story with something like "Once upon a time there was a poor old woman who lived in a forest with her son", and that's it. You don't need to say where the forest was or why they were poor. They don't even need to have names. What did they do? That's the only important part.'

Stories, then, are good for children. First by hearing them, and later by reading **them** independently, we learn that language is for sharing ideas and having fun. But Gillian has a warning for parents and teachers. 'Don't tell them that it's good for them, and certainly don't encourage them to read books that you think they should. There's no quicker way to make them not want to read.'

**A: answer the following questions.**

1. How do folk tales help to develop a child's imagination according to Gillian Poulson?

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2. Why does Gillian Poulson especially recommend folk tales or fairy stories for children?

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**B: Decide whether the following sentences are True or False:**

1. Some people worry that folk tales are not realistic. ( )
2. Gillian Poulson thinks stories only have a small effect on children. ( )
3. Albert Einstein doesn't agree that reading children fairy stories helps them to be more intelligent. ( )
4. In fairy stories, actions and events are more important than ideas and events. ( )
5. Parents should recommend good books for their children to read. ( )

**D: Replace the following words and phrases with words and phrases from the text.**

1. motivate .....
2. expressed admiration .....
3. clever .....
4. any person in a story (or film, play, etc).....
5. individually .....

**E: Write what the following pronouns refer to:**

1. "they" in line 4 .....
2. "them" in line 8 .....
3. "this" in line 12 .....
4. "them" in line 18 .....

Good Luck



*Together we learn*