

Fairytale Word List



Hennin

A tall, pointy hat worn by princesses in olden times—like a magical traffic cone made of silk!

Battlements, Merlons, and Crenellations

Battlements are the notched top of a castle wall. The solid parts are called **merlons**, while the gaps are called **crenellations**, which are perfect for peeking through while watching for dragons or waving to friends below.

Portcullis

A heavy, spiky gate that slides down to block the entrance to a castle. It's like a medieval garage door for knights!

Turret

A small, round tower on a castle—where someone might keep a telescope, a treasure, or a secret pet dragon.

Moat

A deep, wide ditch filled with water (and maybe crocodiles!) that surrounds a castle to keep it safe.

Gossamer

A whisper-thin fabric, like fairy wings or spider silk caught in moonlight.

Brambles

Twisting, thorny bushes—exactly the kind that might grow around a sleeping castle in an enchanted forest.

Gilded

Covered in a thin layer of gold—like the edge of a royal invitation or the handle of a magical sword.

Changeling

A mysterious baby left by fairies in place of a real child—used in old stories to explain unusual children (but don't worry, it's just a tale!).

Dirk

A short, sharp dagger often carried by brave heroes (or sneaky bandits) on secret missions.

Grimoire

A magical book filled with spells and ancient secrets. Definitely the kind of thing you'd find in a wizard's dusty library.

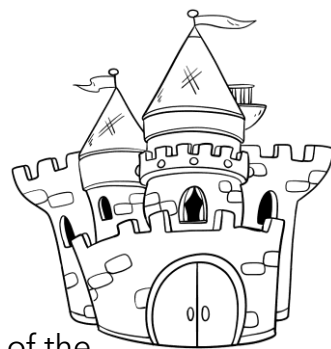
Wisp

A tiny trail of smoke, mist, or light—sometimes believed to be a spirit or a fairy leading you on an adventure.

Keepsake

A small object kept to remember someone or something special. Could be a locket, a ribbon, or a lucky pebble from a magical stream.

Activities



Fairytale Word Scavenger Hunt

Give kids a copy of the word list and challenge them to find as many of the words as possible in books, movies, or during pretend play. Can they spot a turret in a picture book or see brambles in a backyard bush?

Create Your Own Fairytale

Invite kids to write or dictate a short story using at least 5 words from the list. Encourage creativity! Maybe a gossamer-winged fairy escapes through a portcullis and hides her grimoire in a turret guarded by brambles.

Word Art

Let kids pick their favourite word and create a drawing, painting, or collage inspired by it. Add the definition below the artwork and create a magical vocabulary gallery.

Build-a-Castle Challenge

Using blocks, cardboard, or couch cushions, challenge kids to build a castle that includes as many of the castle-related words as possible (crenellations, moat, turret, portcullis, etc.).

Vocabulary Charades

Act out the words on the list and have others guess which one it is. Can someone pretend to wear a hennin or tiptoe like a wisp?

Tip for Parents & Teachers: These words make for great conversation starters during story time. Try pausing and asking, "What do you think a grimoire is?" or "Why do you think castles had moats?"