

Into The Woods

US | 2014 | Cert. PG | 125 mins

Director: Rob Marshall

A baker and his wife are told by a witch they can break a spell that means they will never have children if they bring her: a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, hair as yellow as corn, and a slipper as pure as gold. Off they venture into the woods to find them stumbling across Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel and Jack and the Beanstalk on the way.



Disney © (2014) All rights reserved.

You will like this film if you liked

Maleficent (2014, PG)



Disney © (2014) All rights reserved.

Watch next

La Belle Et La Bette (1946, PG)



BFI © (1946) All rights reserved.

Talk about it (before the film)

What musical films have you seen before? Why would filmmakers use song and lyrics to tell their story instead of traditional dialogue?

Talk about it (after the film)

- Think back to the film's opening 15 minutes. It has to set up multiple stories, link them all together, introduce the characters and make the audience used to a unique, unfamiliar musical world. How do the filmmakers achieve this? Think about the song lyrics and the editing in particular.
- Lots of the characters are extremely familiar to us from other stories. What helps us identify them? In particular, how do their costumes help to tell us who they are? Can you think of any examples of characters that behave differently than we might expect?
- Go back and watch the Witch's 'Stay With Me' song with Rapunzel. What does the song tell us about their characters and relationship with one another? Is this surprising? How does she compare to witches in other fairytales?
- How does the ending differ from those usually seen and heard in fairy tales? What lessons do the characters go on to learn?

Write about it

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension activities

Imagine you had to introduce another classic fairy tale character into the film, such as Snow White, Sleeping Beauty or Alice in Wonderland. What might their storyline be? Try drawing storyboards for their first scene in the woods with one of the other characters.