CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Blue Fairy Book

Andrew Lang · *1889 · original English text, edited by Andrew Lang from many sources*

Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden. Lang's Blue Fairy Book is a complete first colour-book of fairy tales from many nations, and its first tale in this edition is The Bronze Ring, not Cinderella.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What is a colour-book of fairy tales worth when the stories come from many countries and many tellers, and how should the first tale of this volume be read as a door, not as the only room?

"Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden."
The Bronze Ring, the opening of the first tale in this edition

The hosted text is The Blue Fairy Book (1889, PG #503), complete as Lang's first colour fairy-book, a collection of tales from many sources, edited by Andrew Lang. In this edition the first tale is The Bronze Ring; well-known tales such as Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty, and Little Red Riding-Hood are in the volume later, and are not the first page. The opening is exact. Map the book as a complete collected store, not as a single story and not as Lang's original invention of every tale. A wide band, including younger readers with guidance for some darker pieces. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

the king of the spacious garden
The first tale's king, whose palace opens The Bronze Ring.

the changing company of The Bronze Ring
The first tale's people, who are not the whole book.

the later figures of the well-known tales
Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty, and the rest, who come later in the volume.

Andrew Lang, as editor
The gatherer of the store, not the sole inventor of every tale.

ONCE UPON A TIME

> *"Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden."*
> The Bronze Ring

Grades K–5
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Palace and a Garden
THE BRONZE RING, FIRST IN THIS EDITION

Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden. The first tale of the Blue Book is The Bronze Ring, not Cinderella.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses.
- The Bronze Ring is first in this edition; do not teach the first page as Cinderella.
- A wide band, including younger readers, can enter here.

> *"Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden."*
> The Bronze Ring

02
A Store from Many Nations
THE MIDDLE OF THE VOLUME

Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding-Hood, Aladdin, and many others share the later book. They are gathered from many sources; Lang is the editor of the store, not the sole inventor of every tale.

- Keep the tales distinct.
- Some pieces are darker than a nursery retelling; guide younger readers.
- Do not treat the volume as one novel.

03
The First of the Colour Books
THE COLLECTION AS A WHOLE

The Blue Fairy Book is the first of Lang's colour fairy-books. Later colour books on this site, if hosted, are other volumes, not chapters of this one.

- Complete as the Blue Book.
- A collected store from many tellers.
- For a wide band, with guidance for some darker tales.

04
Lang's 1889 Collection
THE HOSTED FILE

PG #503 and the site EPUB are this complete Blue Fairy Book. Quote stretches that appear in both, from the tales themselves.

- Complete as this first colour-book.
- First tale: The Bronze Ring.
- The translation line is editorial English from many sources, not a single original invention.

A First Colour-Book | Tales from Many Nations | A Palace and a Garden | Wonder | A Gathered Store

What to watch for as you read

GRADES K–5

1. The hosted text is The Blue Fairy Book (1889, Project Gutenberg #503), complete as Lang's first colour fairy-book, a collection of tales from many sources, edited by Andrew Lang. In this edition the first tale is The Bronze Ring; well-known tales such as Cinderella, the Sleeping Beauty, and Little Red Riding-Hood are in the volume later. The opening is exact: "Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden."
2. Map the book as a complete collected store, not as a single story and not as Lang's original invention of every tale. Later colour books, if hosted, are other volumes. A wide band, including younger readers with guidance for some darker pieces.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, edited by Andrew Lang from many sources, Project Gutenberg #503, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-blue-fairy-book/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.