

## ACTIVITY 8

### SNOW WHITE OPTICAL ILLUSION

**ADVANCE PREPARATION:** *Photocopy the optical illusion and coloring picture of Snow White on page 18. Other items needed by students are crayons and a 3 x 5 card.*

*After reading and discussing “Snow White Wants It Now,” use the optical illusion to further consider the illusory relationship between satisfying wants and obtaining happiness.*



#### Snow White Optical Illusion and Coloring Picture

Color the picture of Snow White and then watch the wicked queen hand Snow White the apple. To see Snow White take the apple from the wicked queen, place a 3 x 5 card on edge between Snow White's hand and the queen's hand. With both eyes open, lower your head so you can see Snow White with your left eye and the wicked queen with your right eye and see what happens.

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## ACTIVITY 9

## SNOW WHITE WANTS IT ALL

The Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale *Snow White* Retold

True, it was once upon a time, and yes, it was long ago, but what matters, really, is the lesson it provides to all those whose wants exceed their wisdom.

A princess was born and the queen's wishes were granted. The child's skin was white as snow, her lips were red as blood, and her hair was black as ebony. The child was named Snow White. Year by year the child grew more and more lovely until, unquestionably, she became the fairest creature in all the land.

Unfortunately, her mother died shortly after her birth and the king took a new wife. The new queen was very beautiful, but alas, she was also very vain and proud. If you can imagine, each day she stood in front of a magic mirror and inquired:

Mirror, Mirror, on the wall  
Who is the fairest of us all?

And the faithful mirror would answer,

You, my queen, are the fairest of them all.

Then, satisfied she was the most beautiful creature there ever was, the queen would go about her business for the day. That is, until one fateful day when her mirror responded:

Queen, you are full fair, tis verily true  
But now Snow White is more fair than you.

Suddenly, filled with jealousy and hate, the queen's features, which only moments before had been most lovely to behold, were now dark and forbidding. For weeks the queen knew no peace as an evil plan formed in her mind. Snow White must die. To perform this foul deed she hired a

huntsman. He was to take Snow White into the woods, kill her, and bring back proof she was dead. Fortunately for Snow White, the huntsman, being a man of tender heart, was unable to slay the sweet and innocent child. Instead, he left Snow White unharmed in the woods and took the heart of a boar back to the queen as proof he had done as she had wished.

Frightened, and unsure what to do, Snow White wandered in the woods until she happened upon a small cottage in which there lived seven dwarfs. On hearing her sad story, the kindly dwarfs took the young girl in, fed her and gave her a place to sleep. Before leaving for work the next morning, the dwarfs warned Snow White to beware of strangers. You see, they had become very fond of Snow White and feared the queen would still try to harm her.

They were right, for at that very moment, the queen was standing before her mirror and asking,

Mirror, mirror on the wall,  
Who is the fairest of us all?

Imagine, if you will, the queen's anger when she heard the mirror say,

Queen, thou art truly of beauty rare,  
But Snow White who is living in the glen  
With the seven little men  
Is a thousand times more fair.

Knowing she had been deceived by the huntsman, the queen decided she must do the job herself. Dressed as an old peddler woman, the queen went to the glen and persuaded Snow White to buy some pretty lace. Then with a quickness that betrayed her age, the old woman quickly laced it around Snow White so tightly she could not

breathe. Snow White would have died had the dwarfs not returned home in time to save her.

The next day, her little friends warned her again to beware of strangers, and the warning was needed. For, upon learning from her mirror that Snow White was still alive, the queen disguised herself again as an ugly old woman and returned to the glen. This time the wicked queen was selling beautiful combs with poison in them. Snow White thought, "Surely this old woman means no harm, and her combs are so lovely, I must have one." So she chose the comb she liked most, put it in her hair and fell immediately to the ground. The poor girl surely would have died, but fortunately, the dwarfs returned home again, just in time to save Snow White.

Greatly worried for their young friend, the dwarfs gave her a very stern warning before leaving for work the next day. "Do not trust anyone," they said. On learning her second attempt had failed, the queen resolved to try one more time. By now the wicked queen had become truly ugly. Jealousy and envy had so cankered her soul she was no longer beautiful at all. She knocked at the window chanting, "Apples for sale. Delicious, juicy apples for sale." Snow White hesitated, but an apple sounded so good, she could not resist the temptation and opened the window. Snow White almost shuddered when she saw the ugliness of the old woman, but the apples looked so red and

juicy, she felt she had to have one. Choosing to ignore her past experiences and the warnings of her friends, Snow White took the apple the old woman offered her. Unaware that the wicked queen had filled the apple with poison, Snow White bit into it and immediately fell dead.

For all her folly, Snow White led a charmed existence. Her dwarf friends placed her in a glass coffin that they placed on a pedestal in the glen. One day, a prince in passing by, was much taken by her beauty. After much effort, he persuaded the dwarfs to move the coffin to another location where he could look upon her more often. In moving the coffin, Snow White was jostled and choked up the piece of poisonous apple that had lodged in her throat. She sat up, now alive and well. Overcome with joy, the prince took her with him to be his wife.

The wicked queen was not so fortunate. Thinking Snow White dead, the queen returned to her magic mirror to admire her own beauty and to ask her favorite question. But, when the queen looked in the mirror and saw that she was no longer beautiful, but instead had become a most ugly creature, she ran from the castle and threw herself into a nearby lake. Rumor has it that upon throwing herself into the lake, all the fish therein jumped out. They refused to live there any longer, declaring it an unfit place for any self-respecting fish. At least, so I have heard.

### Hindsight Questions

- What did the queen want?
- What did the queen do?
- What happened as a result?

### Insight Questions

- How did the queen's wants affect her ability to care about Snow White?
- What makes you think Snow White had trouble learning from experience?
- How did Snow White's wants influence her choices?

### Foresight Questions

- How can you tell when your wants are getting out of hand? What are some clues?
- How can you recognize when things you want may not be good for you?

## The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly

**Discussion Opportunity:** Iwannit Now, a particularly vicious member of the Stink'n Think'n Gang took hold of the queen's ability to think. She wanted to be the fairest woman in the land. Biggs Bigger convinced her it was more important than anything else. As a result she chose to disguise herself as an ugly old woman in an attempt to kill her own stepdaughter. This is an example of how Iwannit Now can twist a person's thinking so he or she makes foolish choices and does foolish things. Iwannit Now also got hold of Snow White. Under his influence and that of Biggs Bigger and Eency Wency Tiny Too, she wanted the lace, the comb and later the apple more than she wanted to listen to the warnings of her friends. Character Traits: PR right, accountability; SR self-denial; RO caring, T honesty

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