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FUNCTION OF THE MIRROR IN GROZDANA OLUJIC’S FAIRY TALES (POSSIBILITIES OF METHODOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION)

Summary: The primary focus of this paper is the mirror (reflection) motif and its function in the fairy tales of Grozdana Olujic. The research basically includes all the collections. Although very particular in each fairy tale, there are several basic functions of this motif: fear of the reflection, a lookalike, announcement of the wondrous. We are comparing it to the mythical tradition and the works of other children’s literature authors. The choice of fairy tales to be done at school can be motif-based, whether it be the mirror motif or any other. Such a selection of texts provides a corpus of examples for the methodological introduction of this important literary-theoretical notion. Comparative studies of the same or similar motif (in the works of one or more authors) can be assigned the function of developing pupils’ ability to understand intertextual bonds and to trigger their personal and reading experience in understanding and interpreting a literary work. The most frequently applied function of the mirror motif in Grozdana Olujic’s fairy tales is that of announcing the wondrous. Bearing in mind that the notion of the 261 wondrous as a genre feature of fairy tales is used from the earliest school age, it is this particular function that our choice of fairy tales for methodological interpretation will be based on.

Keywords: teaching literature, fairy tale, motif, mirror, reflection, the wondrous, personal and reading experience.