

## CHA

In this issue we have chosen the theme of change. Covid has taught us a lot about our priorities, ourselves as people and how adaptable we are as humans to changes. Change is inevitable. It's the only way forward in our collective effort to make this world a better place. Here are our three pieces about different aspects of change. We hope you enjoy reading them just as much as we enjoyed writing them!

*The Suburb Youth Team*

## OUR OUTDATED FABLES

I'm going to tell you all a story, a story that is probably very familiar to all of you. The story of Sleeping Beauty. A young princess pricks her finger on a spindle cursed by an evil fairy, Maleficent and falls asleep for one hundred years. Oooooo spoooooky. However, of course it must have a happy ending like any classic fairy-tale and so a brave prince comes and saves her with a true love's kiss, and so the curse is lifted and they all live happily ever after. We all know these traditional fairy tales; Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Cinderella, Rapunzel etc. They're the bedtime stories we've been telling for centuries, the inspiration behind the popular plays, movies and musicals that have shaped our childhood. Yet, what if I asked you this? These classic fairy tales, what if they aren't teaching children good morals, but instead making them closed-minded and full of unrealistic ideas about the society we live in today? Perhaps 'bippity boppity boo', might just be 'bippity boppity bad'. This is why fairy tales cause more harm than good and need to *change*.

To begin with, we can all agree that in the majority of these stories a common trope is the 'poor damsel in distress', who is constantly being saved by the handsome, strong prince. It's 2022, and yet we never see the princess rescuing the prince from the tower. These stories are a huge example of inequality and gender stereotypes, teaching children from a young age that women should stay at home to cook and clean, and a man should be the one to work and fight. The image of the handsome, strong prince also perpetuates toxic masculinity: the ideal that a man must be dominant, aggressive, or any other characteristic that is culturally impressed on to them.

In addition, these traditional tales lack racial and physical diversity. Even now, primary schools are breeding grounds for this sort of bigotry and I've heard roles being denied due to phenotypic differences. Incidents like this are not uncommon and, in all honesty, cannot be blamed on the children; we as a society need to increase the variety of the stories we choose to tell. They are giving young children the impression that you need to have a perfect slim body, beautiful hair and a bright complexion, else no one will love you. All encouraging confidence issues for those who do not fit this image.

By passing down these stories, we are perpetuating outdated ideas and not helping to dismantle systemic problems. It's time to teach our children that you can be a boy and still like the colour pink, people of colour are just as important as white people and that it's what's on the inside that matters not what's on the outside.

Things need to change. Perhaps 'happily ever after' is not so happy after all!

KRITI & NYSA



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