TRADITIONAL LITERATURE VS. MODERN FANTASY

With the large number of movies that Disney has created from fairy tales, it is difficult today for children (and many adults!) to distinguish between true folktales and modern fantasy. The main characteristics of folktales are:

- folktales were made up before writing was a common skill
- the authors of folktales are not known
- many folktales are a compilation of more than one story and can have slightly different variations
- folktales were TOLD before they were written down and READ
- folktales are usually from a time period before 1800
- they were created to teach a lesson

The main characteristics of modern fantasy are:

- they have a known author
- they were WRITTEN down first
- they were written since 1800 (modern does NOT mean 2009!)
- they were created mainly for entertainment purposes, though they might have a lesson
- They are usually longer than traditional folktales, often a full length novel

The Top 5 fantasies commonly mistaken to be folktales or fairytales are:

Alice in Wonderland (Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland) written by Lewis Carroll in 1865.
The Wizard of Oz (The Wonderful Wizard of Oz) written by L. Frank Baum in 1900.
Peter Pan (Peter and Wendy) written by J. M. Barrie in 1911.
Mary Poppins written by P. L. Travers in 1934.
Pinocchio (The Adventures of Pinocchio) written by Carlo Collodi in 1883.