The Light Princess: An Illustrated Fairy Tale

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# Table of Contents

Abstract ................................................................................................................ iv  
Acknowledgements .......................................................................................... v  
Reflective Essay ............................................................................................... 1  
Works Cited ....................................................................................................... 13  
Capstone Summary .......................................................................................... 14
Abstract

Fairy tales teach children important life lessons, and *The Light Princess* by George MacDonald is no exception. The main lesson taught by this story is that one needs a balance between gravity and levity, or that there can be no true happiness without knowing sadness as well. This fairy tale is aimed at slightly older children, around age ten, so they might begin to understand this lesson. Younger children would not be able to understand this as well, but it may stick with the older kids. I feel that this is a particularly important life lesson, and my illustrations try to make this idea more memorable and appealing.

In an increasingly digital world, the lessons taught by traditional fairy tales continue to be relevant. The lesson in this story, that one cannot be happy without knowing sadness, is a particularly critical one. Besides showing a message, illustrating *The Light Princess* gave me crucial experience with book illustration. Deciding what parts of a story to highlight, laying out a book, and sticking with one project for a long time are all aspects of this industry that I had not dealt with before. Hopefully my illustrations will bring attention to this fairy tale and George MacDonald's stories and remind readers about the joy and importance of reading books.
Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to thank Honors for giving me the opportunity to push myself farther than I thought I could and particularly Karen Hall for keeping an eye out for me. Next, I want to thank my advisor, James Ransome, for meeting with me week after week to review my images and providing valuable feedback and advice while working on my project. Thank you to my reader, Yvonne Buchanan, for taking the time to read the book and encouraging me to press on. I want to thank the rest of my professors, particularly Roger DeMuth, for putting up with my stress-induced freak outs this past semester. Thanks to my parents, Brenda and Dave Shaffer, for letting me turn our basement into a studio during winter break to continue working on this project. Thanks as well to my sister, Rebecca, and her fiancé, Ryan, for putting up with me ignoring all of my maid-of-honor duties while I finished my school work. To all of the other senior illustration majors that I share a studio with, thanks for putting up with my stressed out moments, and I wish you all the best of luck after graduation. Finally I would like to thank my friends Lyndsay, Nina, Deborah, Jodie, Katie, and Danny, who have stuck with me since we lived together in Brockway, for letting me spread my work all over our living room, modeling for me if I need help with a pose, putting up with me spilling toxic painting medium on our rug, and not judging me when I got so stressed out that I screamed at my car.