

Brielle and Bear: Once Upon a Time . . .

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Secondary



SYNOPSIS

First-year student Brielle, a daydreamy book lover, knows everything there is to know about fairy tales. Returning to the city of Rosebridge four years after moving away, she attends Once Upon a Time University, with the intention of living her fairy tale dream. And when she meets Bear, shy vice-captain of the Princes rugby team, at the bookshop where she works, Brielle's dream is off to a good start.

Determined to forget the past, and with an unexpected new relationship blossoming, Brielle feels she's finally living the dream. That is, until she discovers that she's not the only one hiding something . . .

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Salomey Doku is a self-taught author-illustrator from Leeds. Originally trained in architecture, she started watercolour painting in 2018 and quickly fell in love with the art of storytelling. When she is not drawing, she is either daydreaming, going on long walks, at church or talking to her pet hedgehog Strawberry. *Brielle and Bear* is her first graphic novel.

Find out more about Salomey at [@salomeydraws](https://twitter.com/salomeydraws) [@sa.dokuillo](https://www.instagram.com/sa.dokuillo) [salomeydraws.com](https://www.salomeydraws.com).

STUDY NOTES

- The title and the cover art indicate the fairy tale theme/genre. The author was inspired not only by her passion for fairy tales but one in particular. Encourage readers to predict the fairy tale on which this is based.
- Create an anchor chart with relevant literary terms, particularly applicable to fairy tales, and their definitions plus the following examples:
 - Fairy tale elements: archetypes, trope, symbolism, motifs.
 - Figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, idioms.
 These could be extended with examples from the text as the reading is undertaken.
- As this is a graphic novel, the narrative is propelled almost entirely through dialogue. How does this impact or create mood/tone/purpose?
 - How does it help shape the reader's perception or response?
 - How does this technique construct an understanding of character/s and backstory?
- Much of our understanding of the plot and characters is derived visually. Discuss the following examples:
 - How do we know that Brielle's mother is dead? (p 98).
 - How is the passage of time passing known?

- Find other examples where meaning or understanding is conveyed via the illustrations alone.
- How does the author use the symbolism of bees and butterflies to provide the reader with insight into Bear's character? (p 31—bees, p 108—butterflies).
- At the carol service, the theme is love over fear, and there are many examples provided by the minister. How does this correlate to some of the characters' fears in the narrative and how do they overcome their fears? Find examples in the text.
- List all Brielle's 'rules of fairy tales' and choose one on which to expand.
 - Provide your own real-life examples that demonstrate the rule.
 - Would you change or modify the rules? If so, how?
- Not everyone is passionate about fairy tales; other genres could be used to convey the same themes or ideas. What would your genre of choice be and how could you change up ideas in this text to reflect your own taste?
 - Write a short summary of plot/setting/characters/colour palette to explain your idea.