This week your child is reading *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*, an original fairy tale created by a boy and a girl, each with a different viewpoint.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Ask your child to imagine a fairy-tale giant and describe the character in detail. Add details of your own. Use some of these words.

- hideous
- exploding
- immense
- invisible
- battle

**Alike and Different**  The princess in the story spins gold thread, just like the girl in the fairy tale *Rumpelstiltskin*. Find a version of *Rumpelstiltskin* on the Internet. Read it with your child. Then talk about how the characters, settings, and plots in each story are alike and different.

**Twisted Tales**  Authors have fun creating humorous versions of familiar fairy tales by changing the characters and action. One way to twist a tale is to have characters from different fairy tales meet. Can your child name some characters who might meet? Share ideas about funny things that might happen in a new tale with these characters.

**Challenge**

Help your child make a comic about one thing that happens when the characters meet.
A Tale for Two  Read and discuss this fairy tale with your child.

The Princess and the Pea

Once upon a time, a wealthy prince traveled far and wide to find a princess. He met many princesses, but none seemed like a real princess to him. Disappointed, he refused to marry any of them and returned home.

One evening, during a terrible storm, a girl showed up at the castle door. She was soaking wet from head to toe and looking dreadful. She said she was a real princess.

The queen said, “We’ll soon find that out.” She removed all the bedding and placed a pea on the bottom of the bed. She took twenty mattresses and laid them on top of the pea. “Here is your bed,” the queen said to the girl.

In the morning, the queen asked the girl how she had slept. The girl replied, “Terribly! I was lying on something so hard that my whole body is black and blue.”

“Only a real princess could be as sensitive as that!” the queen said. Then the prince married the girl, for he had found a real princess at last.

The Book and the Movie  Talk about a fairy tale that has been made into a movie. Ask your child to tell how the movie and story are different.

Book Links
- The Grasshopper’s Song, by Nikki Giovanni
- The Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty and the Beast Tale, by Laurence Yep

Internet Challenge  Together, find a website that tells about the famous storyteller Hans Christian Andersen and offers examples of his tales. Choose one tale to read or listen to together.