



## Awakening the Moral Imagination through Fairy Tales and Stories with Dr. Vigen Guroian

Seminar 3 with Becky  
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### Outline:

#### Pinocchio

- The Disney movie is only a piece of the novel.
- There is a parallel to Genesis, which is nature that is not all right. There is a piece of wood that is not all right.
- Pinocchio does not end up a vagabond, he ends up in a home with a loving father.
- The story is the story of the Christian life.
- The Jonah story is found in Pinocchio.
- At the end of the story Pinocchio is changed into a boy by the blue-haired fairy. He is forgiven, even though there is still room for improvement.
- There is an emphasis on the good heart throughout the story.
- What is the meaning of this sudden change? When children who were naughty become good, it gives a new smiling appearance to the whole family.
- Pinocchio becomes a real boy, the realest real human being.
- Pinocchio can be read allegorically, particularly because of several moments that recapitulate the Christian life, in some sense the Gospels.
- Pinocchio has to be taken through other things in order to be reformed.
  - Sacramental moments in the story.
  - Pinocchio has befallen some funny and strange experiences.
  - The fox and cat steal his money, and he gets imprisoned for having been robbed. He is let out of prison because he is a rascal.
  - He is beginning to learn that he is at fault for the obstacles that befall him.
  - The penance doesn't stick.
- Pinocchio is the one who is looking for filial love, responsibility, and duty.
- In each instance of self-narration, Pinocchio gets better at telling the truth about himself.
- The structure of the book is fit for children, in short episodic chapters.
- Pinocchio finds a way to escape the worst consequences in each instance.



- Children think of themselves as puppets, because of their parental strings attached. They think they are being acted upon than that they are their own agents.
- Pinocchio is a bit of an Odyssey. Pinocchio is looking for a home.
- There was no way of translating the humor from the Italian, there were idioms that were not able to be translated.
- Chapter 23: When Pinocchio returns, he is intent to make amends with the blue-haired fairy. Her cottage is not there, instead a gravesite is there. This is a turning point in the story.
- Pinocchio is no longer a donkey when he comes out of the water, he is a puppet again. This is a kind of baptism.
- Pinocchio has come to be able to tell the truth about himself, he is maturing.
- Pinocchio comes upon the fox and the cat another time. They come to him as real invalids. Pinocchio says, “Goodbye, scoundrels.” He is in the opposite situation with the cricket.
- The blue-haired fairy is the angel of the story. She teaches Pinocchio many hard lessons.