

= Once Upon a Time (game) =

Once Upon a Time is a card game produced by Atlas Games , originally released in 1994 with a second edition published in 1995 and the current third edition in 2012 . One object of Once Upon a Time is to tell a fairy tale as a group . While the story is developed by the whole group , the competitive aspect of the game is that each player has an individual goal of using all of the " Storytelling " cards he or she has in hand , and finishing the story with their own special " Happy Ever After " card . Only one player at a time is the current storyteller , giving him or her a chance to play their Storytelling cards , while the other players have a chance to " interrupt " the story and become the storyteller if , for example , the storyteller mentions something on one of the interrupting player 's cards .

= = Gameplay = =

Each player is dealt a hand of cards that represent story elements : objects , people , events , and " aspects " often involved in fairy tales (for instance , there are cards for " crown " , " key " , " stepmother " , " a death " , " time passes " , " sleeping " , et cetera) . These " Storytelling " cards represent ingredients of a fairy tale , i.e. words or phrases that are likely to appear in fairy tales . From a different deck of cards , each player is also dealt a single " Happy Ever After " ending card , to be kept secret from other players until it is used . The object of the game for each player is to use their cards in telling a story , finishing the story by using their Happy Ever After card .

One player at a time is the storyteller . (The 2nd edition rules suggest the starting storyteller could be the " player with the longest beard " , or any other method upon which the players agree .) Whenever a story ingredient is mentioned , if any player has a Storytelling card for that ingredient , he or she can play it and become (or continue being) the storyteller . A player may be required to draw extra Storytelling cards (for example , when they are the storyteller and are interrupted by another player who becomes the new storyteller , or if he or she hesitates for too long while telling the story) . If the storyteller ends the story with the ending on their Happy Ever After card , and is out of cards , he or she wins . Players are expected to cooperate (to some extent) in order to avoid contradictions in the story as it develops , for the story to make sense , and (according to the rulebook) that any ending to the story is " satisfying " .

= = Expansions = =

Expansions contain 55 additional cards . 2nd Edition expansions include :

Dark Tales , dark story elements

Create @-@ Your @-@ Own Storytelling Cards , blank cards

3rd Edition expansions include :

Seafaring Tales , aquatic elements

Enchanting Tales , prince and princess elements

Knightly Tales , medieval elements

Create @-@ Your @-@ Own Storytelling Cards , blank cards

The 3rd edition also has a Writer 's Handbook available , in trade paperback format .

= = Awards and critical reception = =

In his 2007 essay on the game in Hobby Games : The 100 Best , British author and game designer Marc Gascoigne stated that Once Upon a Time is " one of the best ways [he had] ever found to grab a non @-@ gamer by their imagination and fling them into our world " .

In 1999 Pyramid magazine named Once Upon a Time as one of The Millennium 's Best Card Games and also as one of The Millennium 's Most Underrated Games . Editor Scott Haring stated " the game 's just as good for kids as it is for adults . " Commenting on the second edition , reviewer Derek Percy said the game " is a brilliant example of what we should be getting in this new game

market " and " not only is this game easy to learn , not only is it fast , fun , and an Idea Whose Time Has Come , but ... girls think it rocks " commenting upon " the occasional insulting lip @-@ service [many game companies have paid] to their female readership . "

Other awards include :

Once Upon a Time 2nd Edition was named to Games magazine 's Best Family Card Game section in the 1997 Games 100 list .

In 2013 the 3rd edition of the game won a Recommended Parents ' Choice Award .

The 3rd edition was featured on the Tabletop (web series) with Wil Wheaton in 2013 .

Once Upon a Time 3rd Edition received the Tillywig Best Family Fun Award in 2013 .

The cover art for the 3rd Edition was featured in Spectrum 20 .

The 3rd edition was nominated for an Origins Award in 2013 , in the Children 's , Family , or Party Game category .