

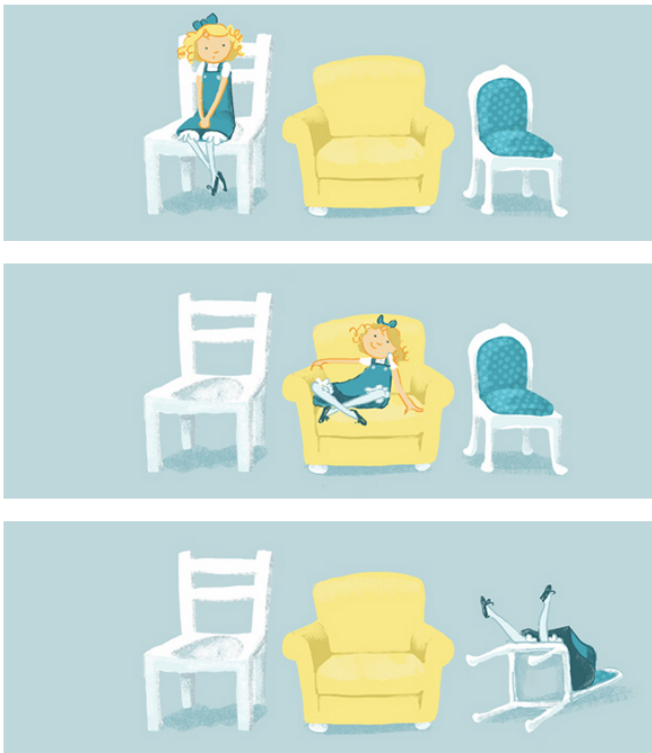
7 Fairy Tale Tips for Finding the College of Your Dreams

**“ALL OUR DREAMS CAN COME TRUE,
IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE
TO PURSUE THEM.”**

-WALT DISNEY

Fairy Tales can come true—it can happen to you!—and with these tips from childhood classics, you can find the college of your dreams.

1. **Goldilocks Got it Just Right.** Goldilocks was picky. She wanted the right size bed, the best porridge, the most comfortable chair. Trying everything about a school on for size is the best way to find the right fit for you too. If you have the chance to eat in the dining hall or overnight in a dorm, you'll learn a lot about what day-to-day living is like at your dream school.



Via [Juliann Law](#)

- 2. Channel Your Inner Peter Pan.** That is, look for a place where you think you can fly. If you have a clear idea about what you want to study, make sure your dream school has a strong program in your intended major and minor. Research the professors, internships, clubs, and study abroad options that will help you grow your interests and step beyond your current comfort zone. A lesser-known school may have a special strength that will help you spread your wings.



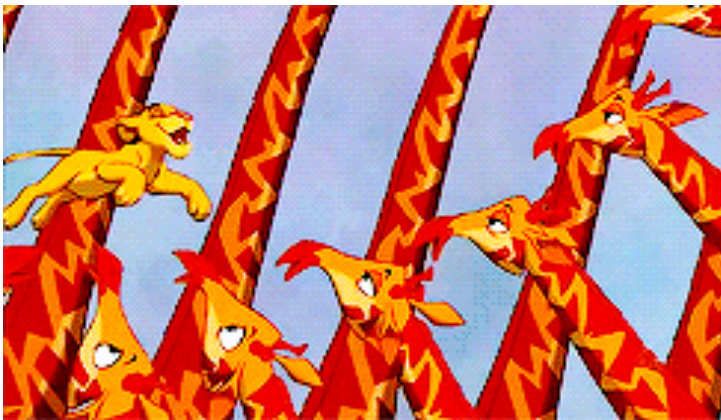
Via [GIPHY](#)

- 3. Don't Pull a Pinocchio.** When the wooden puppet lied, his nose *grew*. Don't let the prestige (and stress) of landing a spot at a brand-name college make you lie to yourself. If you are honest about what you want out of college, you'll find the perfect school—even if it happens to be something other than Ivy League.



Via [Pixabay](#)

4. **The Lion King's Wisdom.** If you just can't wait to be king (or queen), look for schools that will help you develop as a strong leader. If you feel that sense of “hakuna matata” (“no worries” in Swahili), your confidence will grow, and you’ll be able to take on school leadership and community service roles. Your willingness to serve others can earn you respect from future employers.



Via [GIPHY](#)

5. **Be the Princess, Lose the Pea.** In the story “The Princess and the Pea,” the princess winds up on the stack of mattresses because the people at the palace don’t believe she is who she says she is. They test her to see if she really fits. A good fit—for a palace or a college—is a place that lets you be authentic, where you can be yourself, and pursue the

things that interest you. The culture of the student body and the values of the institution matter when deciding whether you'll be truly comfortable.



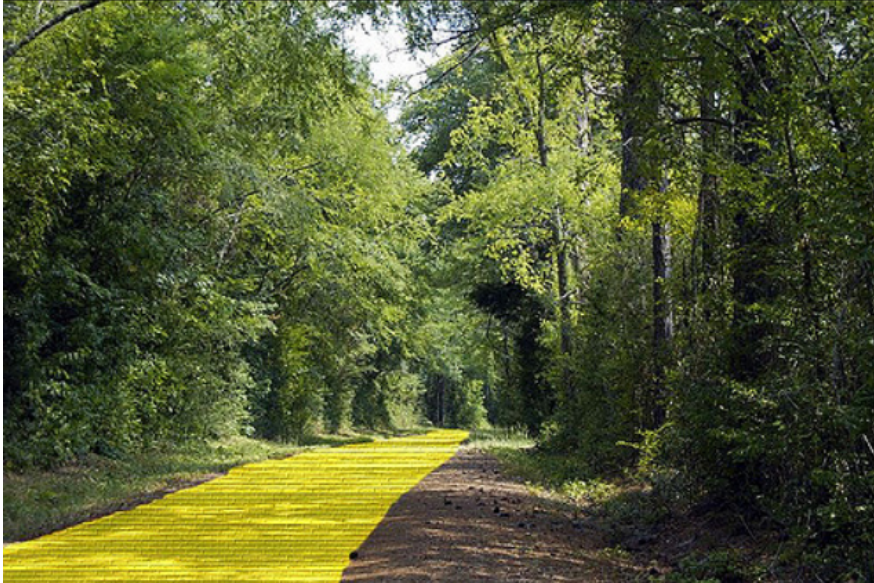
Via [Cartoon Stock](#)

- 6. Look for the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg.** If financial aid is important (and let's face it, for most of us it is), be sure to research your schools' scholarship options and aid stats. Schools with big endowments will have excellent financial aid and scholarships, but you may also fare well at schools that really want students like you and are willing to bank on them.



Via [insideyourira.com](#)

7. **Follow the Yellow Brick Road.** Find your courage. Listen to your heart. Rely on your brains. And decide if you agree with Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz” that “There’s no place like home.” Drawing a circle around your hometown to define your school location search is one way to go. If you are likely to be homesick or can’t live without Dad’s special homemade mac & cheese, try this approach and look for options closer to home. But if that circle seems a little small, you might just be ready for a more far-flung adventure.



Via [John Nutter](#)

High school graduation may seem like the end of a story, but it’s just the beginning. To see if a Jesuit education is just what you need to get you toward your own happily ever after, [click here](#).