

STORY GUIDE

Cinderella

Original story by: Charles Perrault

Read by: Lisa DiSimone



morals and themes

It's what's inside that counts

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- What happened to Cinderella's mother?
- Why did Cinderella's step-mother make her do the hardest chores?
- Why didn't Cinderella think she should go to the ball at first?
- What did the Fairy Godmother make into a horse and carriage? Why do you think the author chose these objects?
- Compare Cinderella's step-mother with her Fairy Godmother.
- Explain the term "Cinderella story" to your class. Discuss other stories with a similar "rags to riches" theme.

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

Use the internet or library to research at least one other "Cinderella story," and compare to "Cinderella."

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?

notes on this adaptation

One of many fairy tales popularized by Disney, elements of the "Cinderella story" are popular and well-known throughout history and different cultures. The earliest recorded version is the story of Yeh-Shen from China, which features a magical fish instead of a Fairy Godmother. The story of Angkat from Cambodia is similar, but has a more bittersweet ending. The famed Brothers Grimm also recorded a version of this story, but Speakaboos draws mostly from the Charles Perrault version, which features strong themes of motherhood.