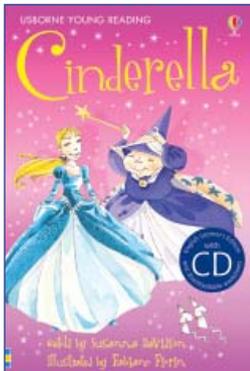


Cinderella • Teacher's notes



Author: based on the story by Charles Perrault

Reader level: Upper Intermediate

Word count: 1801

Lexile level: 480L

Text type: Fairy tale

About the story

Cinderella is one of the best-loved fairy tales, the story of a poor girl forced to act as a servant to her stepmother and ugly stepsisters. When the Prince sends out invitations to a Ball, Cinderella's stepmother refuses to let her go. Cinderella stays at home, crying, until suddenly her fairy godmother arrives and transforms a pumpkin into a golden coach, lizards into footmen and Cinderella's rags into a beautiful gown and glass slippers. However, she warns, the magic will only last until midnight.

Cinderella arrives at the Ball, and the Prince falls head over heels in love. Cinderella dances with him until almost midnight, then runs from the palace as the magic fades, leaving one glass slipper behind. The next day, a messenger announces that the Prince will marry the girl whose foot fits the slipper. The ugly sisters are eager to try, but of course their feet won't fit. To everyone's amazement, Cinderella comes forward and her foot fits perfectly. The messenger – the Prince in disguise – at once asks Cinderella to marry him.

The story is told in hundreds of different versions around the world. This version is based on the retelling by the French author Charles Perrault, itself based on older stories but introducing the fairy godmother.

About the author

Charles Perrault was born in Paris 1628, and had a long career as a Government minister and private secretary. When he lost his post at the age of 67, he dedicated himself to writing. His "Tales of Mother Goose" were published in 1697. They included such classics as Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Puss in Boots, and were an instant success, inspiring numerous other collections of fairy tales. He died in 1703.

Key words

Your students might not be familiar with some of these words in the story.

p3	stepmother	rubies	waving	p27	dazzling	p39	big toe
	revolting	p13 gazed	p20 wand		slippers		snatched
	trifle	gorgeous	flicked	p28	stroke		rammed
	cabbage	shrieked	p22 tinkle	p28	swept	p40	squeeze
	custard	p14 gasped	sparks	p29	entered		grunt
p5	broom	coach	mousetrap	p31	twirled		wrenched
	teased	swish	p23 sink		graceful		snapped
	cobwebs	blast	peered		ignore	p41	ma'am
	sneered	p15 struggled	tap	p32	whirled	p42	interrupted
p7	gripped	blurred	p24 transformed	p33	raced		slipped
p9	chorused	sobbed	rosy-cheeked	p34	sigh	p44	swift
p10	wig	tangled	whiskers	p37	entire		cloak
	streamed	tinsel	lizards		town crier		strode
p11	stuffed	soot	watering can		messenger	p45	puff
	lime	p17 godchild	p25 footmen		kingdom		mist
p12	suited	p18 pumpkin	glistening	p38	flung		declared
	grandeur	p19 spell	p26 rags		grabbed	p47	scolding

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Key phrases

p3 at once	p19 Jolly good [old-fashioned]	to catch sight of
... will just have to wait	p20 The time has come	p34 to catch your eye
p5 to make your way	p21 Well spotted	p36 the likes of you
p6 Get on with it	p25 At your service	p37 By order of
p8 You must be joking	p26 to be pleased with	his royal highness
If only...	yourself	p40 Off you go
p12 What would you know?	p29 to fall silent	p41 You needn't bother with
p16 whatever are you doing?	p31 He'd much rather...	p42 to have a right to
p18 wipe those tears away	p32 to watch the time	[do something]

Before reading

Write up on the board (or draw or find images if you can): 1 pumpkin, 6 mice, 1 rat, 6 lizards. Ask if students can guess which story you're about to read. If they need clues, you could mention or show the fairy godmother, ballgown and glass slippers. Why did the fairy godmother need the pumpkin and the animals? Where was Cinderella going? Who are the other main characters in this story? Are they nice?

Reading or listening

You can listen to the story on CD or read it aloud to the students, take turns to read or read together silently. Each double page spread in the book is one track on the CD, so that you can pause between tracks or repeat tracks if your students need it. The first reading is in a British English accent, and it is followed by an American English reading. The words are exactly the same. After the story, there is a short selection of key phrases that can be used for pronunciation practice.

During reading: you might like to ask some of these questions.

p3 What's a stepmother?	p25 Look at the picture. Why do you think the footman has such a long tongue? [Because he is really a lizard]
p4 What does the stepsisters' choice of food suggest about them as people?	p30 Why do the ladies think Cinderella is a princess?
p6 Would sisters normally treat their stepsister like this?	p35 What do you think Cinderella is thinking now?
p8 Why do you think the father is scared?	p41 Do you think the Prince recognizes Cinderella?
p12 Do you think rubies and ribbons will make the sisters look more attractive?	p44 Why did the Prince pretend to be a messenger?
p14 Can you put Cinderella's thoughts into words?	p47 What do you think happens to Cinderella's father?
p21 What words could you use to describe Felicity? [e.g. magical, kind, funny, strange]	

After reading

Talk about the book as a "rags to riches" story, with something extremely unlikely happening and transforming Cinderella's life. Does this often happen in real life? Many little girls dream of marrying a prince and being whisked away to a palace, but it's usually only a dream. Unfortunately, they don't have fairy godmothers to help them!

Would the Prince ever have chosen to marry one of the sisters? Why not? What's special about Cinderella?

Imagine the Prince hadn't found the glass slipper, and wrote a poster appealing for help to find her instead. Start with "Has anyone seen this lady?" and then list all the words and phrases he might use to describe her. You could have fun making the description especially poetic – the Prince is in love, after all.