

Seeking Cinderella

Arthur Goldwag's "Cidro-ella" is a modern version of a classic fairy tale. In this activity, you will read a short version of the Cinderella story that many of us know. Then you will answer questions to help you understand the updated play, and the way we think about "a Cinderella story."

Directions: Read the story of Cinderella below. Then use the information to answer the questions.

Once upon a time, a man had a single daughter with his good and beautiful wife, who died when the girl was still young. He remarried a cruel and proud woman with two equally haughty daughters. The girl's stepmother and stepsisters treated her badly and forced her to work, while her father offered no help. Because the girl slept by the hearth, she was called Cinderella.

One day, the King announced a ball for his son, the Prince. Cinderella wanted to go, but her stepmother refused and took only her own daughters. In some stories, a fairy godmother appears to help Cinderella; in others, birds from the tree above her mother's grave come to her aid. She magically receives a coach, a gown, and pair of special slippers.

When Cinderella arrived at the ball, everyone stared at the beautiful woman. She danced with the Prince all night, but left before midnight, when all her magical decorations—her gown, the carriage and coachmen, but not her shoes—would disappear. She attended another ball, but fled when the clock struck midnight. In her haste, she lost one of her slippers.

The Prince, in love with the mysterious beauty, searched the entire kingdom for the woman who fit the slipper. The stepsisters tried to force their own feet into the slipper, and attempted to keep Cinderella away. In some stories, they even cut off their own toes or heels to fit the slipper. Eventually, Cinderella tried on the shoe, which fit her perfectly. The Prince recognized her as the lady from the ball. They married and lived happily ever after. In some versions, Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters are punished for their terrible behavior.

1. Find the main events in the story. Write a one-sentence summary of each paragraph above.

Continued ►

Seeking Cinderella page 2

2. "Cidro-ella" is a modern version of this story. Does the updated version have all the same main events? How are the stories different?

3. What are Cinderella's and Cidro's lives like at the beginning of the story? What are they like at the end?

4. The term "Cinderella story" gets used in everyday life, too, not just in fairy tales. Have you ever watched a sports game or race where one team or person is expected to win? Sometimes, someone new or unexpected wins instead, and the announcers shout in their surprise, "What a Cinderella story!" What does that phrase mean?

5. Why is an unexpected winner in sports like Cinderella and Cidro?

6. Give an example of another time you might use the phrase "Cinderella story." Explain why it would be appropriate.
