

CINDERELLA

Teacher Study Guide • A Timeless Tale of Kindness, Courage & Dreams

Recommended Grades: K-5

Curriculum Connections: English Language Arts • Fairy Tales & Folklore • Character Education • Social-Emotional Learning • Theater • Visual Arts • Creative Writing

Welcome to the Magic

Thank you for downloading this study guide to accompany the performance of Cinderella. Use these pages before, during, and after the show to spark conversation, creativity, and meaningful learning.

Contact Enrichment Through the Arts

Questions and student letters are always welcome. Please note the performance name so we can place correspondence in the right hands.

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ABOUT THE SHOW

Step into a fresh adaptation of a beloved fairy tale

Cinderella is a kind and resilient young woman who is treated unfairly by her stepfamily. Despite the challenges she faces, she refuses to let their behavior change who she is. Cinderella continues to demonstrate kindness, courage, perseverance, compassion, and hope.

With a little magical help from her Fairy Godmother, Cinderella is transformed and given the opportunity to attend a royal ball. Her adventure encourages students to think about fairness, relationships, choices, consequences, and the importance of treating others with dignity and respect.

More than a story about magic and finding a prince, Cinderella reminds us that true strength comes from within - and kindness is a choice we can make even when circumstances are difficult.

A Fairy-Tale Snapshot

CHARACTER Kindness and resilience	CONFLICT Unfair treatment	MAGIC A joyful transformation
CHOICES Actions have consequences	HOPE Believe in possibility	THEME Inner strength matters

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After seeing Cinderella, students will be able to...

- Identify the characters, setting, problem, major events, and resolution.
- Recognize common elements of fairy tales and folklore.
- Describe Cinderella's character traits and how they influence her choices.
- Discuss the meaning of resilience and perseverance.
- Explore themes of kindness, fairness, empathy, and respect.
- Compare fantasy elements with realistic elements.
- Identify ways actors, costumes, scenery, music, and movement help tell a story.
- Use imagination and creativity through writing, discussion, and art.

WHAT IS A FAIRY TALE?

Fairy tales are stories that have been told and retold for generations. They often include:

ROYALS	MAGIC	FARAWAY PLACES
HEROES & VILLAINS	TRANSFORMATIONS	LESSONS

Before the show: What fairy tales do you already know? What do those stories have in common?

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Wonder • Predict • Connect

1. What does it mean to be kind?
2. Is it always easy to be kind?
3. What does fairness mean?
4. What should you do when someone treats you unfairly?
5. What does it mean to be resilient?
6. Why is it important to believe in yourself?
7. What do you already know about Cinderella?
8. If you had a Fairy Godmother, what would you wish for?

VOCABULARY

Resilience	The ability to recover and keep going when something is difficult.
Perseverance	Continuing even when something is challenging.
Kindness	Treating others with care and consideration.
Compassion	Caring about another person's feelings and wanting to help.
Fairness	Treating people justly and appropriately.
Transformation	A major change in appearance, form, or character.
Folklore	Traditional stories, beliefs, and customs passed between generations.
Conflict	The problem or struggle in a story.
Character Trait	A quality that describes a character's personality.
Consequences	The results of choices or actions.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Be a Theater Detective!

CHARACTER

How does Cinderella respond when others treat her unfairly?

MAGIC

What magical or fantasy elements appear in the story?

CHOICES

What important choices do the characters make?

CHARACTER TRAITS

Look for kindness, courage, selfishness, patience, jealousy, and perseverance.

THEATER

How do costumes, scenery, lighting, music, acting, and movement create Cinderella's magical world?

Watch with your eyes. Listen with your ears. Think with your heart.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Let's Talk About It!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who are the main characters? | 7. Why is the royal ball important? |
| 2. What is Cinderella's biggest problem? | 8. What choices does Cinderella make? |
| 3. How does her stepfamily treat her? | 9. How does she demonstrate resilience? |
| 4. How does Cinderella respond? | 10. How does the story end? |
| 5. Who helps Cinderella? | 11. What lesson does Cinderella learn? |
| 6. What magical transformation takes place? | 12. What lesson can we learn? |

CHARACTER EDUCATION: Kindness Is a Choice

Cinderella is surrounded by people who do not always treat her kindly, yet she makes choices about how she will treat others.

Discuss: Can you control how other people behave? Can you control how you respond?

I show kindness when I...

When someone is left out, I can...

One way I can make someone feel special is...

CINDERELLA'S CHARACTER TRAITS

What do her choices reveal?

Kind	Resilient	Hopeful	Patient
Courageous	Caring	Determined	

Choose traits that describe Cinderella. Give an example from the performance for each one.

Think deeper: Which of Cinderella's qualities is most important? Why?

MY INNER MAGIC

The Fairy Godmother changes Cinderella's appearance - but Cinderella already possesses qualities that make her special.

I am good at:

I am proud that I:

One kind thing I do for others is:

Something I am working hard to learn is:

A quality I like about myself is:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Story Elements

CHARACTERS

Who is in the story?

SETTING

Where and when does the story take place?

PROBLEM

What challenge does Cinderella face?

IMPORTANT EVENTS

What happens?

SOLUTION

How is the problem resolved?

THEME

What message does the story teach?

SEQUENCING ACTIVITY

First • Next • Then • Finally

Number these events from 1 to 5 after seeing the performance:

- ☐ Cinderella attends the royal ball.
- ☐ Cinderella is treated unfairly by her stepfamily.
- ☐ Cinderella receives magical help.
- ☐ Cinderella's life changes.
- ☐ Cinderella must leave the ball.

Add another important event from the production:

CREATIVE WRITING: If I Had a Fairy Godmother...

Imagine that a Fairy Godmother appears and offers to grant you one magical wish. What would you wish for? Would your wish help only you - or could it help someone else?

"I couldn't believe my eyes. Standing in front of me was a Fairy Godmother, and she said..."

CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE

The Story From Another Point of View

Rewrite part of Cinderella from the perspective of the Fairy Godmother, a stepsister, the prince, Cinderella's stepmother, or someone attending the royal ball.

Think about: How would that character describe the same events? Would the story seem different from this point of view?

ART ACTIVITY

Imagine you are the costume designer for a new production of Cinderella. Design her costume for the royal ball. Consider colors, patterns, fabrics, shoes, accessories, and magical details.

DRAW YOUR DESIGN HERE	Explain your design choices:

THEATER CONNECTION

From Page to Stage

Actors	Bring characters to life.
Costumes	Help show who the characters are.
Scenery	Creates the setting.
Props	Objects used by the actors.
Lighting	Creates mood and magical effects.
Music	Helps communicate emotion.
Movement	Helps tell the story without words.

THEATER DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Name your favorite theatrical element from Cinderella. Explain how it helped make the story memorable.

CINDERELLA AROUND THE WORLD

One story • Many cultures

Stories similar to Cinderella have been told in many different cultures. Different versions may have different characters, settings, magical helpers, clothing, and traditions - but many share themes of kindness, perseverance, unfair treatment, transformation, and hope.

Find another Cinderella-type story from a different culture. Then compare the two versions.

WHAT IS THE SAME?	WHAT IS DIFFERENT?
What lesson does each story teach?	

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Fair Doesn't Always Mean Equal. Does fair always mean everyone gets exactly the same thing? How should people respond when they see unfair treatment? How can we help everyone feel included and respected? Why is empathy important?

KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Small acts can make a big difference

Complete at least five acts of kindness. Check each one as you go!

- ☐ Include someone who feels left out.
- ☐ Give someone a sincere compliment.
- ☐ Help someone without being asked.
- ☐ Say thank you to someone who helps you.
- ☐ Encourage someone who is having difficulty.
- ☐ Share with someone.
- ☐ Listen when someone needs a friend.
- ☐ Do something kind without expecting anything in return.

CLASSROOM POSTER

“In Our Classroom, Fairness Looks Like...”

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Learning can happen across every subject

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Fairy tales, folklore, story structure, sequencing, character development, theme, point of view, vocabulary, and creative writing.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Resilience, empathy, self-confidence, relationships, responsible choices, and emotional awareness.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Kindness, courage, fairness, compassion, perseverance, and respect.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Fairy tales and folklore from cultures around the world.

THEATER

Acting, storytelling, costumes, scenery, lighting, music, movement, and stagecraft.

VISUAL ARTS

Costume design, illustration, character design, and creative expression.

THE BIG IDEA

True Magic Comes From Within

A person's greatest qualities cannot be measured by fancy clothes, possessions, or appearances.

Kindness takes courage.

Challenges can make us stronger.

Everyone deserves dignity and respect.

Never stop believing in yourself and your dreams.

**BE KIND • BE COURAGEOUS •
KEEP DREAMING**

Thank you for joining Cinderella's magical journey!