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Study Guide

For

Cinderella

A Musical for Children

Based on the Charles Perrault Tale

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Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit professional children's theater company operating under a Theater for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the USA. Member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.



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Act I

The play opens with Mrs. Finch comparing her two daughters, Zinnia and Doreese, to her stepdaughter, Cinderella. Neither Mrs. Finch nor her daughters understand why Cinderella spends so much time daydreaming. They want her to only serve their needs around the house. Cinderella doesn't mind doing the work, but when she asks for help, she is told her stepsisters are too delicate for household chores. After Stepmother and the two stepdaughters leave, Cinderella fantasizes about having her dreams come true someday. As she leaves to do her chores, the King and Prince Stefan arrive to deliver an invitation to a royal ball. The King is looking for a princess for the prince. When Cinderella finds the invitation, she starts dancing in excitement. The Stepmother, Zinnia and Doreese enter to find out what all the noise is about. When they discover the invitation, Zinnia, Doreese and Mrs. Finch, excitedly make all the necessary preparations in anticipation of the royal ball, with Cinderella's help of course. Mrs. Finch talks Cinderella out of going to the ball because she will only look foolish because she has no social graces. Finally, the big evening arrives. As Cinderella finishes the last of her chores, she hears the voice of her Fairy Godmother. Her Godmother tells her to carry out her dream and go to the ball. When Cinderella looks around, but sees no one. With much fanfare Mrs. Finch, Zinnia, and Doreese depart for the ball. Cinderella starts to cry. Suddenly, the Fairy Godmother appears and tells Cinderella to go to the ball. She asks Cinderella for a pumpkin and with a wave of her wand creates a coach. She then tells Cinderella that the spell will be broken at midnight and she must leave the ball before then. Cinderella promises to leave. As Act I ends the Fairy Godmother is magically creating a beautiful gown out of Cinderella's rags.

Act II

As the act opens the royal ball is in progress. The king encourages Prince Stefan to dance with Zinnia and Doreese. After having his toes stepped on and being squeezed in a bear hug while dancing, the Prince decides he still has not found anyone to be his bride and starts to leave the ball. As he does, Cinderella arrives. Prince Stefan is immediately

taken by her simple charm and grace. They dance the night away. At the stroke of midnight, Cinderella dashes off leaving the palace. As she runs, she loses one of her shoes. The Prince tells the King that the mystery girl is the princess of his dreams and he must search the kingdom to find the one whose foot fits the shoe. In their search, the King and the Prince arrive at the house of Mrs. Finch. They try the shoe on Zinnia, and Doreese, but it does not fit. The Fairy Godmother encourages Cinderella to go for her dreams. Despite being ignored by her Stepmother, Cinderella enters the room just as the King and Prince are about to leave. She tries on the shoe and it fits. Both the Prince and Cinderella have their dreams come true and they live happily ever after. The End

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

The following common core aligned* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

BEFORE THE PLAY:

1. Read the original story by Charles Perrault. Talk with your student(s) about how different characters respond to events and challenges in the story (RL 2.3).
2. The story of Cinderella has been translated into many languages and adapted in other cultures like Egyptian, African and Chinese. Read one or more of these other versions. What are the differences? The similarities? (RL 2.9)
3. Share the synopsis of the play with your student(s). How does that compare/contrast with the versions you've read? (RL 2.9)
4. Cinderella likes to daydream. Discuss with your child(ren) what a daydream is. In what situation(s) is a daydream good? In which might it be bad? About what do you daydream? (SL 2.2)
5. Present the elements of a fairy tale to the students(s) – kind character(s), evil character(s), magic, royalty, life-changing event, a happily ever after, a lesson. Cite specific examples from the Cinderella text(s) you've read. (RL 2.1, RL 2.2, RL 2.7)
6. Ask your child(ren) to create an invitation that Cinderella might have received. Describe what will occur at the ball. The invitation should have information like where and when to attend. (W 2.2)

7. Talk to your child(ren) about attending a live performance and how it differs from watching TV at home. Discuss what it means when there are many people who want to see and hear the action. How should good audience members behave? (SL 2.2) Tell your student(s) that they will have the opportunity to meet the actors after the play!
8. Ask your student(s) to imagine that they are given a pair of magical shoes. The student(s) can write a descriptive piece relating what their shoes would look like. What would the magical shoes allow them to do? These pieces, along with illustrations, would make a great class book that students could read during their Daily 5 activities. (W 2.2)
**The 2nd grade common core standards used can be easily adjusted to meet the needs and levels of your individual students.*

AFTER THE PLAY:

1. Complete a story map listing the characters, setting, and events from the beginning, middle, and end of the play. (RL 2.1, 2.5)
2. In the play, The Fairy Godmother tells Cinderella that Cinderella should believe in her dreams. Put yourself in the role of Cinderella and write a thank you note to your Fairy Godmother. (W 2.3)
3. Create an "If the Shoe Fits" bar graph or picture graph depicting the various shoe sizes represented in your class. (2 MD.D 10)
4. In the play, Cinderella's sisters treat her badly. They tell her what to do, and they never help with household chores. Have the students tell why they think Cinderella's family treats her in this manner. (RL 2.6, RL 2.7)
5. What is the lesson learned from the play's version of Cinderella? Is it different from the lesson(s) learned in other versions of the story? What can versions of the same story teach us about different cultures? (RL 2.2, RL 2.9)
8. The music and lyrics told the audience several important things about the plot and the characters. Discuss how the student(s) felt when they heard certain kinds of music in the play. (SL 2.2)
9. Discuss the idiom, "Cinderella story" with your student(s). What other stories have a similar "rags to riches" theme? Does this story relate to your own life in any way? (L 2.3, L 2.4)