EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella

K-5th Grade
ABOUT THE SHOW

This captivating Cinderella for all ages tackles cultural heritage, family, and the power of language as 10-year-old Belinda confronts her stepmother and stepsisters, while learning to embrace her love of poetry and stand up for herself. **Glass Half Full Theatre** from Austin, Texas, presents its award-winning “story within a story” in Spanish and English using puppetry.¹

**WATCH**

![Image of performer]

**ABOUT GLASS HALF FULL THEATRE**

Glass Half Full Theatre (Puppetry of Objects & Ideas) creates original performance featuring both humans and puppets to confront issues of environmental and social justice. Our productions are designed to travel across linguistic and cultural boundaries to the heart of the imagination, where together with our audience we devise a sustainable, equitable future.²

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EXPLORE//CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Paper Bag Puppets
Grades K-2nd

In this workshop, students will explore other cultural versions of Cinderella from around the world. Students will then create a paper bag puppet of their own version of Cinderella and use it to retell the story.

Click Here for the Lesson Plan

Found Object Puppetry
Grades 2nd-4th

In this workshop, students will work creatively to animate everyday objects into storytelling puppets! Students will be challenged to think outside of the box by writing and performing scenes, as a group, that retell the story of Cinderella, using their found object puppets.

Click Here for the Lesson Plan

Reimagined Fairy Tales
Grades 3rd-5th

In this workshop, students will reimagine the story of Cinderella. Using their creative writing skills, students will write retellings of the classic story from different points of view and adjusted circumstances, then act out the altered fairy tales themselves.

Click Here for the Lesson Plan
The story of Cinderella is cherished and shared across many different cultures around the world. However, the details within the story of Cinderella vary amongst different parts of the globe. **Compare and contrast the two versions below using the Venn Diagram provided here.**

"The Irish Cinderlad" is an Irish version of Cinderella whose story centers around a boy named Becan whose father marries a cruel stepmother with three daughters. Becan's stepfamily treats him poorly, so he decides to run away. On his journey, he forms a friendship with a magical bull, and saves the life of a princess. However, Becan flees from the princess, leaving behind one of his boots. The princess looks all throughout the town for the man who fits the boot, until finally she stumbles upon Becan, and they both live happily ever after.³

“The Egyptian Cinderella” follows the story of Rhodopis, an Egyptian slave living in Greece. Rhodopis is estranged from her three beautiful sisters who treat her poorly for her appearance. The only joy in Rhodopis’ day is her pair of slippers gifted to her by her master. One day, a falcon swoops down and grabs one of her slippers. The falcon flies Rhodopis’ slipper all the way to Egypt, and drops it in the lap of the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh then goes on a quest to reunite the slipper with its owner, and eventually finds Rhodopis, who joins the Pharaoh to live happily ever after in Egypt.⁴

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“Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella”  
By Robert D. San Souci  
Now you can hear the tale from someone who was there: a poor washerwoman from the island of Martinique. She has just one thing in the world to love, her goddaughter Cendrillon. When she finds Cendrillon heartsick over a rich man’s son, at first she doesn’t know what to do. But she has sharp wits, a strong will, and the magic wand her mother left her — and soon she has a plan to give her dear Cendrillon the gift of a love that will change her life.

“Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China”  
Retold By Ai-Ling Louie  
Half-starved and overworked by her stepmother, Yeh-Shen's only friend is a fish with golden eyes. When the stepmother kills the fish for dinner, poor Yeh-Shen is left with only the bones. But the bones are filled with a powerful spirit. When Ye-Shen is forbidden to attend the annual spring Festival, the spirit grants her a gown of azure blue and delicate golden slippers. That night, everyone marvels at the beautiful, mysterious young woman at the ball.

“The Orphan: A Cinderella Story from Greece”  
By Anthony L. Manna & Soula Mitakidou  
Once upon a time in Greece, fate left a young girl an orphan. Her stepmother was so hateful that she counted every drop of water the orphan drank. But with the help of Nature’s blessings, the orphan was showered with gifts: brilliance from the Sun, beauty from the Moon, gracefulness from the Dawn — and even a tiny pair of blue shoes from the Sea. When the prince comes to visit their village, he only has eyes for the mysterious beauty.

Want to explore more versions of Cinderella from around the world?  
https://teachingwithchildrensbooks.com/cinderella-stories-from-around-the-world/

Cinderella has inspired many artists to share the beloved story across a variety of mediums – from puppet shows and movies to operas and ballets!

LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC

Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo from Cinderella
Excerpt from Cendrillon

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

Cinderella - Ballet by Instituto Nacional De Las Bellas Artes
Cinderella - Tichenor Marionettes by Wishing Chair Productions
Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella
EXPLORER THE ORIGIN OF FAIRY TALES

The term “fairy tale” was coined in the 17th century by French author Madame d'Aulnoy. Though storytelling can be traced back to the earliest roots of human existence, the genre of fairy tales originates from European Renaissance writers, and was later stabilized by collectors like Charles Perrault and the Brothers Grimm.

While fairy tales are similar to traditional folk tales, fairy tales typically involve fantastical elements such as mythical creatures and magical curses. In fact, “Before the definition of the genre of fantasy, many works that would now be classified as fantasy were termed "fairy tales," including Tolkien's The Hobbit, George Orwell's Animal Farm, and L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.”

To examine the differences between fairy tales and folk tales further, click here.

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EXPLORE // THE HISTORY OF PUPPETRY

Puppetry is a form of theatrical storytelling that allows puppeteers to manipulate and bring to life inanimate objects known as puppets. Sometimes these puppets may resemble humans or animals, or they may be more metaphoric and symbolic of what they are portraying. “Puppetry is a very ancient art form, thought to have originated about 4000 years ago. Puppets have been used since the earliest times to animate and communicate the ideas and needs of human societies. Some historians claim that they pre-date actors in theatre.”

To learn more about puppetry, click here.
EXPLORE // FAIRY TALES AROUND THE WORLD

Fairy tales, whether written or spoken, are shared around the world as a means of cultural passage. However, not all tales begin with “Once upon a time...” 

“In Korean, a typical fairytale begins: ‘Once, in the old days, when tigers smoked...’ In Catalan, spoken in the north-east of Spain, a story may start with, ‘Once upon a time in a corner of the world where everybody had a nose...’ or, ‘Once upon a time, when the beasts spoke and people were silent...’ In some parts of the Caribbean, stories begin with call and response with the audience, with the narrator saying in Creole, ‘E dit kwik? (I say creek) to which the audience replies ‘kwak’ (crack).”

Read

“The Talking Eggs”
By Robert D. San Souci
This 1989 Caldecott Honor Book retells a Creole folktale about two sisters whose distinctly different personalities affect the outcome of their lives.
Rose, the oldest sister, is rude, cruel, and demands to have her way all the time. She refuses to do housework or care for her mother. But gentle Blanche gladly does what she is told and tries her best to be kind to others. When Blanche meets an old woman with supernatural abilities, her life changes, and the discovery of a chicken house of talking eggs filled with treasures of gold, jewels, silver, and fine dresses changes it even more. But what will become of the greedy Rose?

“Pattan’s Pumpkin”
By Chitra Soundar
A vibrant variation on the traditional flood myth from the Irular tribe in Southern India.
When Pattan finds a yellow-flower vine wilting in his valley, he replants and cares for it, watching as a pumpkin appears and grows taller than the goats, taller than the elephants, as tall as the very mountains. When a terrible storm rages across the valley, Pattan wonders if perhaps his pumpkin can save the seeds and grains and saplings, the goats and birds and bison, and protect them all as the storm clouds burst and the waters rise. Frané Lessac’s brilliantly hued artwork is a feast for the eyes, while Chitra Soundar’s thoughtful retelling is a fascinating example of the kinds of stories told the world over — and the differences that make each version unique.

“The Dollmaker of Krakow”
By R.M/ Romero
In the land of dolls, there is magic.
In the land of humans, there is war. Everywhere there is pain. But together there is hope.

Karolina is a living doll whose king and queen have been overthrown. But when a strange wind spirits her away from the Land of the Dolls, she finds herself in Kraków, Poland, in the company of the Dollmaker, a man with an unusual power and a marked past.
The Dollmaker has learned to keep to himself, but Karolina’s courageous and compassionate manner lead him to smile and even to befriend a violin-playing father and his daughter – that is, once the Dollmaker gets over the shock of realizing a doll is speaking to him.

But their newfound happiness is dashed when Nazi soldiers descend upon Poland. Karolina and the Dollmaker quickly realize that their Jewish friends are in grave danger, and they are determined to help save them, no matter the risks.

Lessac’s brilliantly hued artwork is a feast for the eyes, while Chitra Soundar’s thoughtful retelling is a fascinating example of the kinds of stories told the world over — and the differences that make each version unique.

Want to explore more traditional cultural fairy and folk tales from around the world? Click here.
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