

STUDY GUIDE

*Cin**derella*

About the Play:

Cinderella is a stage adaptation of the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale. The version you will see at the Birmingham Children's Theatre was written especially for you by Mrs. Jean Pierce in 2000. The production has music by Mr. Jay Tumminello and scenery designed by Mr. Yoshi Tanokura.

Summary and Characters:

Cinderella is a famous tale of a girl who is mistreated by her evil stepmother and stepsisters, but ends up marrying the Prince. At Birmingham Children's Theatre, you will meet Cinderella, her stepmother Lady Longnose, her two stepsisters Rubella and Prunella, Prince Chadwick of Charming, and Auntie Goodfair. You will find out that there are many different versions of the same story. They all have the same meaning, but don't always tell it the same way.

Settings:

The Stepmother's Kitchen
The Prince's Ballroom

Themes:

Don't judge a book by its cover
Be true to yourself
Good things will happen if you just believe
Good things happen to good people
Good conquers bad
Love will find its way





We *Educate, Entertain and Enrich*
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.

Classroom ACTivities : 1

Comparing different version: *Cinderella* : **Grades Pre-K to 2nd**

Language Arts Skills Addressed: *Making Connections, Sequence of Events, Building Background Knowledge, Compare and Contrast, Story Elements.*

Cinderella, like many tales, has different versions that have been handed down through the tradition of oral and written literature. You and your class will see a version of *Cinderella* on stage at Birmingham Children's Theatre.

Pre-performance ACTivities:

- 1) With your class, read aloud the text of a traditional version of *Cinderella* found below.
- 2) With your class, create a timeline that chronicles the important points of the story's sequence of events. Keep this timeline to use after you come to the theatre.

Cinderella

Once upon a time there lived an unhappy young girl. Her mother was dead and her father had married a widow with two daughters. Her stepmother didn't like her one little bit. All her kind thoughts and loving touches were for her own daughters. Nothing was too good for them - dresses, shoes, delicious food, soft beds, and every home comfort. But, for the poor unhappy girl, there was nothing at all. No dresses, only her stepsisters' hand-me-downs. No lovely dishes, nothing but scraps. No rest and no comfort. She had to work hard all day. Only when evening came was she allowed to sit for a while by the fire, near the cinders. That's why everybody called her Cinderella.

Cinderella used to spend long hours all alone talking to the cat. The cat said, "Miaow", which really meant, "Cheer up! You have something neither of your stepsisters has and that is beauty." It was quite true. Cinderella, even dressed in old rags, was a lovely girl. While her stepsisters, no matter how splendid and elegant their clothes, were still clumsy, lumpy and ugly and always would be.

One day, beautiful new dresses arrived at the house. A ball was to be held at the palace and the stepsisters were getting ready to go. Cinderella didn't even dare ask if she could go too. She knew very well what the answer would be: "You? You're staying at home to wash the dishes, scrub the floors and turn down the beds for your stepsisters. They will come home tired and very sleepy." Cinderella sighed, "Oh dear, I'm so unhappy!" and the cat murmured "Miaow."

Suddenly something amazing happened. As Cinderella was sitting all alone, there was a burst of light and a fairy appeared. "Don't be alarmed, Cinderella," said the fairy. "I know you would love to go to the ball, and so you shall!" "How can I, dressed in rags?" Cinderella replied. "The servants will turn me away!"



We Educate, Entertain and Enrich the lives of children through the magic of professional theatre.

The fairy smiled. With a flick of her magic wand Cinderella found herself wearing the most beautiful dress she had ever seen. "Now for your coach," said the fairy; "A real lady would never go to a ball on foot! Quick! Get me a pumpkin!" "Oh of course," said Cinderella, rushing away. Then the fairy turned to the cat. "You, bring me seven mice, and, remember they must be alive!"

Cinderella soon returned with the pumpkin and the cat with seven mice he had caught in the cellar. With a flick of the magic wand the pumpkin turned into a sparkling coach and the mice became six white horses, while the seventh mouse turned into a coachman in a smart uniform and carrying a whip. Cinderella could hardly believe her eyes.

"You shall go to the ball Cinderella, but remember: You must leave at midnight. That is when my spell ends. Your coach will turn back into a pumpkin and the horses will become mice again. You will be dressed in rags and wearing clogs instead of these glass slippers! Do you understand?" Cinderella smiled and said, "Yes, I understand!"

Cinderella had a wonderful time at the ball until she heard the first stroke of midnight! She remembered what the fairy had said, and without a word of goodbye, she slipped from the Prince's arms and ran down the steps. As she ran she lost one of her slippers, but not for a moment did she dream of stopping to pick it up! If the last stroke of midnight were to sound... oh... what a disaster that would be! Out she fled and vanished into the night.

The Prince, who was now madly in love with her, picked up the slipper and said to his ministers, "Go and search everywhere for the girl whose foot this slipper fits. I will never be content until I find her!" So the ministers tried the slipper on the foot of every girl in the land until only Cinderella was left.

"That awful untidy girl simply cannot have been at the ball," snapped the stepmother. "Tell the Prince he ought to marry one of my two daughters! Can't you see how ugly Cinderella is?"

But, to everyone's amazement, the shoe fitted perfectly.

Suddenly the fairy appeared and waved her magic wand. In a flash, Cinderella appeared in a splendid dress, shining with youth and beauty. Her stepmother and stepsisters gaped at her in amazement, and the ministers said, "Come with us Cinderella! The Prince is waiting for you."

So Cinderella married the Prince and lived happily ever. As for the cat, he just said "Miaow!"

http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks1/english/story_telling/cinderella/cinderella1.htm



*We Educate, Entertain and Enrich
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.*

Performance ACTivities:

- 3) Explain to your class that they will see a “version” of story you read in class.
- 4) As they watch the show, ask them to quietly think about how the story and the play are similar (like each other) or different (not alike).
- 5) At the performance, remember that the actors love to hear laughter when they do or say something funny, but please, no talking or whispering during the performance unless you are helping the actors.
- 6) It is rude to chew gum, eat or have a drink in the theatre.
- 7) For the actors’ safety, do not use cameras, laser pointers or recording devices during a performance. It is also rude to use a cell phone, iPod, Blackberry or beeper during the show.
- 8) Actors love to hear applause! Show your appreciation by clapping at the end of the play.

Post-performance ACTivities:

- 9) After seeing the production, you can excite your class’s imagination and creativity by discussing: **character**, someone in a book, play, or movie; **compare**, to examine two or more people or things in order to discover similarities; **contrast**, to examine two or more people or things in order to discover differences; **non-traditional**, not based on tradition (a certain way of doing things); **scene**, a small part of a story that occurs in one time and place; **setting**, the time and place of a story; **traditional**, handed down from one generation to the next.
- 10) Let each student tell his/her favorite thing about the play.
- 11) With your class, make a timeline that chronicles the important points of the play’s sequence of events.
- 12) Using the timeline you created based on the story and the one based on the play, allow volunteers to discuss the similarities and differences that they see in the two versions.
- 13) End with applause!



We Educate, Entertain and Enrich
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.

Classroom ACTivities : 2a

Hand/Eye Coordination : **Grades PK-3**

Pre/Post Performance ACTivity:

Colorin



Classroom ACTivities : 2b

Hand/Eye Coordination : **Grades PK-3**

Pre/Post Performance ACTivity:

Coloring





*We Educate, Entertain and Enrich
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.*

Classroom ACTivities : 2c

Hand/Eye Coordination : **Grades PK-3**

Post-Performance Activity:

The character Auntie Goodfair is not like Cinderella's Fairy Godmother that is in many versions of the story. Remember the play you saw and draw how Cinderella's Auntie Goodfair looked.



We Educate, Entertain and Enrich
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.

Classroom ACTivities : 3

Understanding Theme : *Cinderella* : **Grades 1 - 2**

Pre-Performance Activities:

Begin the class discussion by asking “What do you think of when you hear the word “theme?” What does it sound like to you?” Then create with the class a working definition of the word theme, based on the definition: the big idea or main message of the story. Help them understand by offering suggestions similar to the ones listed at the beginning of the study guide. Ask them “How do you experience themes every day?” At home, at school, at church, on the playground? Let each child give an example for the class.

Performance ACTivities:

- 3) Explain to your class that they will see a “version” of story of *Cinderella*.
- 4) As they watch the show, ask them to quietly think about themes that they see in the play.
- 5) At the performance, remember that the actors love to hear laughter when they do or say something funny, but please, no talking or whispering during the performance unless you are helping the actors.
- 6) It is rude to chew gum, eat or have a drink in the theatre.
- 7) For the actors’ safety, do not use cameras, laser pointers or recording devices during a performance. It is also rude to use a cell phone, iPod, Blackberry or beeper during the show.
- 8) Actors love to hear applause! Show your appreciation by clapping at the end of the play.

Post-performance ACTivities:

- 9) After seeing the production, you can excite your class’s imagination and creativity by discussing the themes they felt in the play.
- 10) Ask what the theme “don’t judge a book by its cover” means. How does it apply to Cinderella and her stepsisters in the story and play? Expand the dialogue using other themes.
- 11) With art supplies, let your students draw a picture of a time when they were judged by the way they may have been dressed, how their hair looked, maybe even by the people they know. Expand using other themes.
- 12) Encourage the class to share their art work and the story it tells with the class.
- 13) End with applause!



We *Educate, Entertain* and *Enrich*
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.

Classroom ACTivities : 5

Post-Performance ACTivity: Writing Comprehension: *Cinderella* : **Grades 1 - 2**

Dear (who was your favorite character?) _____,

I am (how old are you?) _____ **and am in the** _____ **grade at** (to what school do you go?) _____.

I came to see you on stage in *Cinderella* at _____ (where?)

on _____ (date) _____ (month) _____ (year)!

I thought the play was (how did it make you feel and why?) _____
_____.

My favorite part of the play was (what was something that was real to you?) _____
_____.

I really liked your character because (what was it that made you like them?) _____
_____.

The set looked like (what did you see?) _____.

The music sounded like (what did you hear?) _____.

Something else that I really loved about the play was _____
_____.

I would like to come back to a Birmingham Children's Theatre play and see (what is a play that you think is fun?) _____.

Love,



We *Educate, Entertain* and *Enrich*
the lives of children through
the magic of professional theatre.

**Birmingham Children's Theatre is the resident professional theatre company
at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.**

Founded in 1947, BCT is one of the nation's oldest continuously run children's theatre.

**BCT has decades of making a positive difference in the lives of over
twelve million of our children.**

Dane Peterson

Director of Education and Production

Birmingham Children's Theatre, P.O. Box 1362, Birmingham, AL 35201

205-458-8183 www.bct123.org education@bct123.org