

# Cinderella

Cinderella is a tale which deals with the issue of bullying, and more specifically bullying within the family household.

The Baron's house used to be such a happy place to live. That was until his first wife passed away and he re-married. From his first marriage was born a beautiful girl

named Ella. She was extremely fair of face and always full of grace, until her step mother and two very ugly step sisters moved into the Household. Her two step sisters, Grizelda and Deirdre, are so jealous of Ella's beauty that they will do all they can to make her life miserable.

One day, the Baron has to leave town, and Ella's step mother decides to get rid of all the kitchen staff and put Ella in their place. But this doesn't alter Ella's gracefulness and kind nature.

While out in the woods, placing flowers on her mother's grave, a fairy godmother arrives and places a spell on Ella to ensure that she will meet the Prince. When the fairy hears someone coming, she disappears in a puff of smoke. The Prince enters with his servant, Dandini, and explains that his parents are trying to find him a bride, so they are holding a ball and inviting every single eligible maiden in the land.

While still strolling in the woods, Ella meets Dandini, who she mistakes for a Prince. Being so captivated by her beauty, he decides to play along, but he soon comes unstuck later in the play.

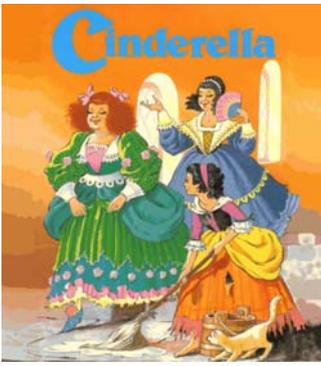
As the invitations are delivered to the Baron's house, the step mother wickedly snatches Ella's, and after she decides that Ella will make her step sister's dresses for the ball, she tears up Ella's invitation into little bits.

While making the dresses, Ella wishes she could go to the ball. At that moment, the Fairy Godmother arrives to make her wish come true. The fairy finishes the sister's dresses and sends them all off to the ball. When they are out of sight, the fairy begins to make Ella's wish come true. With a pumpkin for a carriage, mice for horses, lizards for footmen and a rat for a coachman, Ella is sent to the Ball in a beautiful gown. She is warned, however, that she must return before the last stroke of midnight, when everything will return to its original state.

When she arrives at the ball, the Prince is being somewhat harassed by the two ugly step sisters, but soon excuses himself when he sees Ella enter. The Prince asks her to dance, but she refuses, explaining that she is waiting for the Prince (who she still believes is Dandini). He convinces her to have just one dance before the clock begins to toll twelve. Ella leaves the ball in a hurry, desperate not to be seen in her original form. As she leaves, she drops one of her glass slippers on the steps of the palace.

The Prince, determined to find who this beautiful Princess was, orders that all who received an invitation to the Ball must try on the glass slipper, and whosoever it fits will be his bride. Needless to say that the ugly step sisters were desperate to fit into it, but to no avail. Ella's foot was the only one in the land whose foot fit the slipper like a glove. The Prince, having found his bride, kindly asks that the step mother and her two children leave and never return. Ella, being so kind natured, forgives them for all they did to her. And Ella and the Prince lived happily ever after.





## Using the story of Cinderella to discuss Bullying

Every school is likely to have a problem with bullying at some time. Even incidents where teachers are unaware of what is happening because a child is too scared to talk to any one about it. Here are some very simple drama exercises to encourage children to think about bullying and the effects that it can have.

### LEADING THE BLIND

Working in pairs, person A leads a blind person B around the room using only physical commands, e.g. touching the left/right shoulder to turn, touching the chest to stop.

With older children, you can tell them to vary how fast they travel. If they trust the person leading them enough then they may want to jog around instead of walk. Or if they really don't trust the person leading them, they may want to walk slower.

It is important at this stage to make sure no verbal commands are given, so the children can understand the physical feeling of being controlled by another person.

Ask how it felt to be controlled by one person and then swap roles.

Did anyone fully trust the person leading them?

How did it feel to have no control over the way you were moving, or the way you felt about it?

No one chooses to be bullied, and victims never have a choice about feeling scared or sometimes guilty about their situation.

### STILL PICTURES

Using the story of Cinderella, show still images of the Ugly Sisters and how they have the status over Cinderella.

Now do the same exercise but make the picture much more extreme, using height/depth and bigger physical/facial expressions.

Now reverse the roles, where Cinderella has more status than the Ugly Sisters (e.g. when the shoe fits or she runs away with the Prince).

## PLAYING THE SCENE

Now that the children have an idea of the status relationship between the bully and the target, allow them to improvise around the still pictures they created in the previous exercise and how the events of the ugly sisters' bullying effects Cinderella.

Show to the rest of the group.

You could also create an improvisation around the shoe fitting Cinderella, and how the status of the relationships changes at that point.

## HOT-SEATING

Hot-seating is a very good exercise to convey how the characters feel about the situation they are in. It is a group exercise which starts off with the teacher asking questions about how certain characters feel about other characters, and then develops into the rest of the group asking questions.

Using the Cinderella example, select pupils that wish to portray the Ugly Sisters, and put them in the hot-seat. Starting with the teacher asking the questions, question their motives for picking on Cinderella

Some suggested questions for the ugly sisters:

- Why did you pick on Cinderella?
- Are you jealous of her?
- Did you feel good/bad about doing it to her?
- How much is your other sister to blame?

Now select a pupils to portray Cinderella and put them in the hot seat.



Some suggested questions for Cinderella:

- How did you feel when your sisters were treating you so badly?
- Did you do anything to encourage them?
- How do you feel about your step mother?

## DISCUSSION

The discussion takes place with all group members responding to the teacher, answering questions and sharing experiences with each other.

Begin by asking if any of the pupils have experienced anything similar to what Cinderella felt when the Ugly Sisters were picking on her, and begin to discuss the following points:

- Why were the Ugly Sisters behaving like that towards Cinderella?
- Who has experienced something similar to Cinderella?
- Who has behaved in the same way as the Ugly Sisters did?
- How did it feel?
- Did you speak to anyone about it?
- Who was/would be the first person to tell?
- How would you respond if you were Cinderella?
- In what ways can we help each other if we see some one in the same position as Cinderella?
- How can we help someone who is in the same position as Cinderella?

## Cinderella will go to the Ball

Using any materials you can find, make Cinderella look as beautiful as possible for the Prince. We have given you a picture to work from, which you colour in, or draw your own.

