

Once Upon a Time: Exploring Fairytales and Folktales (Lesson 3)

Cinderella Around the World

Lesson Overview: This lesson invites students to compare and contrast a beloved fairytale classic: *Cinderella*. The story *Cinderella* has been known by many names. *Aschenputtel* in German, *Cendrillon* in French, *Cenerentola* in Italian. Researchers believe there may be over 800 versions of Cinderella around the world, with origins dating back as far as 850. The earliest documented European version was by Giambattista Basile in his collection *Lo cunto de li cunti* (The Story of Stories), also known as “Stories from the Pentamerone”. The most well-known version is by Charles Perrault.

Your student will be examining Perrault’s version, as well as two other versions of their choice. They will be encouraged to think critically by comparing different versions of the same fairytale and discussing how the setting and cultural influence of the stories impact their telling. Along with creating a Venn Diagram to aid in comparing and contrasting the tales, students will be creating a comic strip version of the fairytale to showcase their understanding of the elements of the story.



Pre-reading:

1. Begin by asking your student to share what they know about the story of *Cinderella*. Have they read books or seen movies or plays of this story? Have they read versions of the story that were slightly different from each other?

Reading: Below are three versions of the Cinderella story: the well-known classic set in France, a Creole version set in the Carribean, and a folk-art inspired version set in Mexico. You may choose to explore all three stories with your student, or compare only two.

2. Show your student the French version of *Cinderella* by Charles Perrault. Emphasize and point out the setting of the story (France) on a world map. Ask students to share what they know about France. Explain that Charles Perrault lived almost 400 years ago and that his version of Cinderella is the one that was adapted by Walt Disney into the movie. This version, by Perrault, was the first to include the famous pumpkin, fairy godmother, and glass slippers.
3. Listen to the read aloud of *Cinderella*, pausing to discuss the architecture, weather, time period, and culture as depicted in the text and through the illustrations. Have your student write down a list of things they notice.

➤ Cinderella

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMMr6-uvIs0&t=40s>

4. Next, listen to the read aloud of *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella*, pausing to discuss the architecture, weather, time period, and culture as depicted in the text and through the illustrations. Emphasize and point out the setting of the story (in the Caribbean, on the island of Martinique) on a world map. Have your student write down a list of things they notice.

➤ *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1yMfQGIXBs>

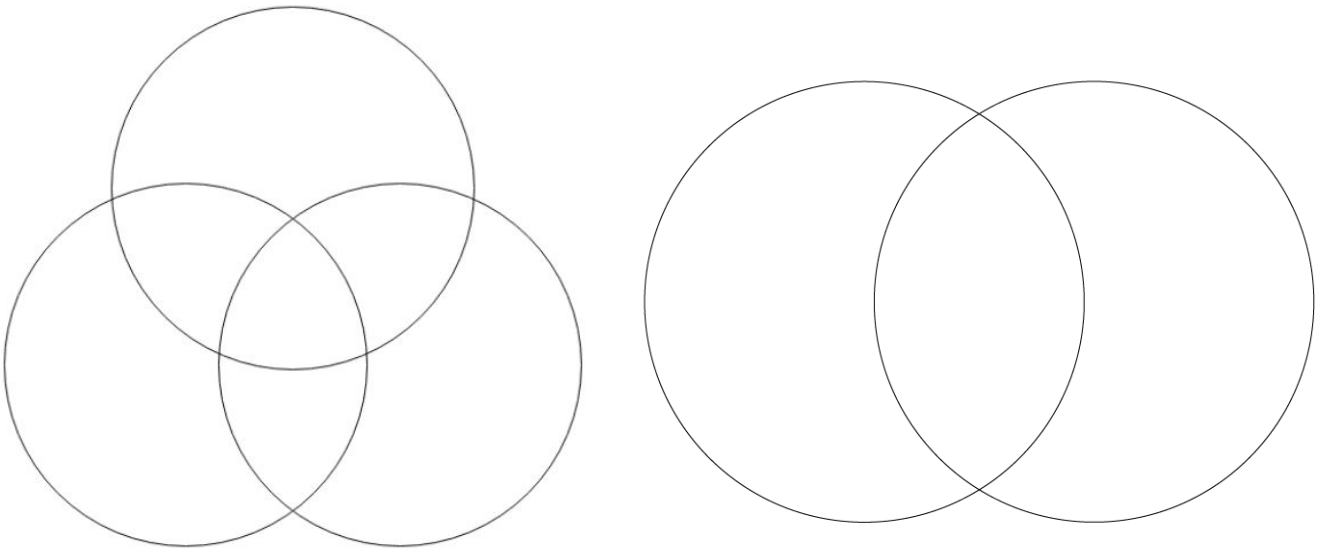
5. Finally, listen to the read aloud of *Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story*, pausing to discuss the architecture, weather, time period, and culture as depicted in the text and through the illustrations. Emphasize and point out the setting of the story (in Mexico) on a world map. Have your student write down a list of things they notice.

➤ *Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNVLYeAtNqM>

6. **Compare and Contrast:** Have your student create a Venn Diagram like one of the two examples below (three circles if they choose to compare all three versions, and two circles if they only want to compare two.) Have them label each circle with the title of the

story, and have them fill in brief descriptions of similarities and differences between the versions of *Cinderella*.



7. **Activity:** After listening to the three versions of this fairytale, ask your student to create a comic strip version of the fairytale. Allow them the creative freedom to either base their story on one of the versions they read, or they can be challenged with creating their own adaptation of the tale. Below are links to comic strip templates that you can print. They can also be traced on to paper if a printer is not available. Have your student use color, words, and lots of imagination in this activity!

- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/kids-activities-and-printables/printables/writing-worksheets/create-your-own-comic-strip-template.html>
- <https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/art/comic-strip-templates>

8. **Extension Activity:** Watch Shelly Duvall's adaptation of this fairytale in her theatrical production of *Cinderella*. Have your student compare the live version from Faerie Tale Theatre to the other versions in this lesson. What is gained from watching the story as opposed to listening to the story? What other live versions of this story have they seen?

★ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hxhqr2EyoLY>