



CINDERELLA IN MANY CULTURES / CONNECTING LA CENERENTOLA TO LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY EXTENDERS

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Designed for upper elementary grades

LESSON PREVIEW

The purpose of this lesson on *Cinderella* - is the story - or the different story - as told in cultures throughout the world for centuries. *Cinderella* is probably the best-known fairy tale in the world. It has been told all over the world, from Egypt to China. Over five hundred versions have been found in Europe alone. The story was first told, and then written down, by collectors of folktales. Sometimes, as you will discover, the teller of the tale would change it slightly.

Different versions of the tale often have a similar structure, theme, and details in common. Joseph Jacobs, a collector and editor of *Cinderella* stories, once wrote of a Cinderella story he had collected and printed that was, "... an English version of an Italian adaptation of a Spanish translation of a Latin version of a Hebrew translation of an Arabic translation of an Indian original."

[New York State Learning Standards for the Arts](#)

- 1 - Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts
- 2 - Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources
- 3 - Responding to and Analyzing Works of Arts
- 4 - Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts

INTERDISCIPLINARY AREAS

Student Read Literature (Genre Study)

Teacher Read-Alouds (Listening)

Oral Language (Speaking)

Written Language

Social Studies



Science
Theatre

THEMATIC STRAND

Culture

WEB RESOURCE

http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teaching_materials/curricula/curriculum_units.cfm?curriculum_unit_id=21

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

1. The class is actively involved in reading and comparing various *Cinderella* stories.

DEVELOPING THE LESSON

1. Students will compare *La Cenerentola* with the *Cinderella* versions they are reading. Each version has its own chart of facts including the following:

- Title
- Author
- Qualities of main character
- Words used to describe main character
- Magical elements
- Helping animals
- Country of origin for tale
- Ending

ASSESSING THE LESSON

1. Students will produce writing pieces that reflect The Language Arts Performance Standards in the form of:

- Narrative Account
- Narrative Procedure
- Report



- Response to Literature

2. These writing pieces will be the outcome of various interdisciplinary connections.

- Students will complete Literature Maps such as Story Maps or Graphic Organizers that will serve as visual representation of ideas and concepts.
- Students can retell or rewrite Cinderella from the point of view of one of the stepsisters or as one of the helping animals.
- Students can write a past, present or future day *Cinderella* story.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Interdisciplinary Connections

- Student Reading/Teacher Read-Alouds (Listening)
- Genre Study of Cinderella stories

Social Studies

- Research on [Gioacchino Rossini](#).
- Trace countries of origin of Cinderella variants

Science

- What are ashes? How are they produced? Could animals take on human qualities?

Theatre

- The acting and movement on stage of *La Cenerentola* (see: [Verse Play](#))

Mathematics Music

Art

Written Language

Oral Language

Oral Speaking