

# Cinderella Resources

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## Booklist – Children’s Version

The history of the ‘Cinderella’ story is fascinating and complex, covering hundreds of years, many countries and a variety of versions. I believe that the most important thing for children to understand is that the story is rooted firstly in oral storytelling tradition and only later written down. Any version then, is a re-telling and this makes being a story detective so exciting, as we look for examples of where the different authors have stamped their own individuality on their retelling. The choice of main ingredients may vary slightly, different characters portrayed more prominently, the setting may be localised or it may be the choice of language used that makes each retelling so individual and special. The illustrations too add their own distinct contribution. A skilful artist will enrich the story by his/her imaginative interpretation of it. Many of our younger children know Disney’s cartoon version (1950) very well, certainly the version written by Charles Perrault in 1697 is the most frequently retold. But other variations exist too, such as *Allerleirauh* or *Many Furs* where the Cinderella character has to leave home disguised in a coat of fur, feather, moss or donkey skin taking with her some of her beautiful dresses. She is mistreated as a scullery maid but is able to attend the ball where of course the young man of the household falls in love with her. The task then, for us as teachers, is to introduce our children to that rich world of retelling and variation so that through their exciting exploration of the old and modern their appreciation of our story telling tradition is deepened.

There are many books to draw upon and the list below includes just some of those I’ve found in school, the library and in bookshops. The majority of them are also wonderfully illustrated.

## Stories within other Collections

‘Cinderella’ in **The Kingfisher Book of Fairytales** retold by Vivian French, illustrated by Peter Malone. Published by Kingfisher (2000). ISBN 0 7534 0394 3

In her introduction Vivian French explains that for her, *‘that touch of magic – a sense of enchantment, of some mysterious force that changes the ordinary into the extraordinary,’* is the key distinguishing feature between folk and fairy tales. Because she listened to fairytales long before she could read them she has rejected complex narratives in favour of clarity. *‘I have tried to write in such a way that both younger listeners and older readers would find the stories accessible and immediate.’* In her version, Vivian reminds us of the clock ticking away throughout the story.

‘Cinderella’ in the **Walker Book of Fairy Tales** adapted by Amy Ehrlich, illustrated by Diane Goode with an introduction by Bruno Bettelheim. Published by Walker Books Ltd (1986) ISBN 0 7445 0339 6

This version is based on the work of Charles Perrault.

‘Cinderella’ in **The Illustrated Book of Fairy Tales** Retold by Neil Philip, illustrated by Nilesh Mistry. Published by Dorling Kindersley(1979) ISBN 0 7513 5628 X

This book contains Fairy Tales from around the world. The version retold is that of Charles Perrault. However each page contains some notes about the origins of the story and its different versions and has a copy of Rex Whistler’s reversible drawing (1935) of Cinderella and her fairy godmother.

‘Cinderella’ in **Favourite Fairy Tales**, retold by Sarah Hayes and illustrated by P.J. Lynch. Published by Walker Books (1997) ISBN number 0 7445 5564 7

In this version Cinderella goes to the ball three times before losing her glass slipper. On each occasion her dress is more beautiful than the last. P.J. Lynch has been awarded many prizes for his illustrations of children’s books.

**Cinderella in The Orchard Book of Fairy Tales**, retold by Rose Impey and illustrated by Ian Beck. Published by Orchard books (1994) ISBN 1 85213 810 6

This retelling is in the tradition of Perrault but in Rose Impey's literary style.

**Cinderella** retold by Kathleen Lines and illustrated by Shirley Hughes in **The Hutchinson Treasury of Fairy Tales** with a foreword by Naomi Lewis. Published by Hutchinson Children's Books (1999) ISBN 0 09 176793 8

A Perrault version with the characters given added interest through Shirley Hughes' illustrations.

**Cinderella in Collins Treasury of Fairy Tales** retold by Helen Cresswell and illustrated by Sian Bailey. Published by Collins (1997) ISBN 0 00 193957 2

A Perrault version with a commanding fairy godmother who appears wearing a tattered cloak and looking like a beggar and who sends Cinderella to the ball just once.

**Cinderella in The Orchard Book of Stories from the Ballet** retold by Geraldine McCaughrean and illustrated by Angels Barrett. Published by Orchard Books (1994) ISBN 1 85213 493 3

This story is a retelling of Prokofiev's ballet which was based on Perrault's version. The sisters are called Gouda and Gorgonzola; the fairy godmother arrives dressed as a beggar summoning fairies to bring gifts for Cinderella; and Cinderella declares her love for the prince at the ball.

**Aschputtel in Rumpelstiltskin and other Grimm Tales** retold by Carol Ann Duffy and illustrated by Marketa Prachaticka. Published by Faber and Faber (1999) ISBN 0 571 19631 4

In this version Aschputtel is helped by her dead mother through a bird that came every day to sit in the tree that grew on her mother's grave. The birds help her achieve the impossible tasks set by her step-mother and it is they who provide the gown for the ball. She goes to the ball three times and on the third occasion the Prince covers the staircase in tar so that her shoe – a

golden slipper – is left behind. When the Prince arrives at her house the two sisters in turn claim that the shoe fits, one cuts off her toe, the other her heel. However the birds alert the Prince to their trickery. Aschputtel is discovered at last and on their wedding day the doves peck out the eyes of the wicked sisters as a punishment for their cruelty.

**Tattercoats and Catskin in English Fables and Fairy Stories** retold by James Reeves and illustrated by Joan Kiddell Monroe. Published by Oxford University Press (1954) ISBN 0 19 274137 3

These two stories belong to that category associated with Allerleirauh or Many Furs.

In **Tattercoats** a Lord refuses to see his grand-daughter because her birth caused the death of his favourite daughter. Abandoned by her family and mistreated by the servants her only friend is a crippled goose-herd. When the King orders a ball to be held for his son, the Lord is forced to attend and Tattercoats would like to go too. The goose-herd with his magic pipe escorts her to the town and on the way she meets the young prince who falls in love with her. He invites her to the ball and she arrives at midnight still wearing her tattered clothes. However when the Prince asks her to marry him, the goose-herd plays his pipe and her clothes are transformed into a shining white, diamond studded ball gown.

In **Catskin** a proud gentleman rejects his daughter at birth because he longs for a son. On her fifteenth birthday he declares that she is old enough to be wed and will be given to the first man who asks her. Unfortunately, this was an old, unpleasant looking man whom the girl could not bear and so she asked the hen-wife to help her. Three times the old man came to her and each time she demanded a different coloured dress, the last of which was made from catskin. Finally she ran away, wearing the catskin dress, and went to seek work in a nearby castle. One day a ball was to be held in honour of the young Lord, who had returned from the court in London. Catskin appeared there in one of her fine dresses and the Lord immediately fell in love with her but she mysteriously vanished before he could find out her name. On the third occasion he cleverly followed her and discovered that she worked as a scullery maid in his own castle. He still wanted to marry her but his parents refused which made him seriously ill. Eventually they agree to the wedding and Catskin is reunited with her father.

## Stand Alone Versions

**Cinderella** translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown. Aladdin Books, Macmillan Publishing Company (1954) ISBN 0 689 71261 8

This is a free translation from the French of Charles Perrault. The sisters are named and Cinderella goes to the ball on two occasions.

**Cinderella** retold by Adele Geras and illustrated by Gwen Turret from the series 'Classic Fairy Tales' published by Macdonald Young Books (1996) ISBN 0 7500 1995 6

This version is based on Perrault's tale but here the sisters are given different names, the god-mother wears a gown of shimmering white, Cinderella goes to the ball just once and the prince is Angelo rather than Charming!

**Cinderella** retold by David Delamare. Green Tiger Press published by Simon and Schuster (1993) ISBN 0 671 76944 8

David Delamare is a fine artist whose frequently exhibited work has a style reminiscent of the Pre-Raphaelites. This stunningly illustrated story set in Venice – a city of canals and gondolas. During one of her birthday parties Ella sees Duke Fidelio, son of the Grand Duke and falls in love with him, believing that he is as lonely as she, for she misses her merchant father. On the death of her mother Ella is sent to boarding school before her father remarries. A tiny, winged woman, her fairy godmother, helps Ella (now called Cinderella) to go to the ball and the pumpkin is turned into a golden gondola! At the end of the tale Cinderella and Fidelio are reunited but the sisters remain forever on their own living long and unpleasant lives because they are unable to stop complaining.

**Cinderella** retold by Stan Cullimore and illustrated by Anna C Leplar. Published by Longman. Big book format ISBN 0 582 33365 2 Small book format ISBN 0 582 338999

This is a simple retelling that includes items of other genres. For example Cinderella and her sisters hear about the ball at the palace through a newspaper report and she recounts the activities at the ball through her diary. The Fairy Godmother speaks only in rhyme which is a reminder of pantomime versions.

**Mossycoat** retold by Philip Pullman and illustrated by Peter Bailey. published by Scholastic Children's Books (1998) ISBN 0 590 54392X

This belongs to the 'Allerleirauh' version of Cinderella. In his version, a young girl is given a magical coat of moss and leaves by her mother before setting out to make her way in the world. Her patience working in the kitchens of a noble family is rewarded when the son of the household falls in love with the beautiful princess who attends the three balls he holds.

## Cinderella Stories from other Countries

**Sootface** – an Ojibwa Cinderella Story retold by Robert D San Souci, illustrated by Daniel San Souci. A Doubleday Book for Young Readers Published by Delacorte Press (1994) ISBN 0 385 31202 4

This beautifully illustrated book reflects mid-eighteenth century Ojibwa village life and tells the tale well known by the tribes of the North-east and Great Lakes of America. In this version a hunter is left to bring up his three daughters. While he is away the elder sisters mistreat the youngest daughter who is made to do all the work and in consequence becomes scarred and tattered. The three daughters are eager to win the hand of a mighty warrior who lives with his sister in a wigwam across the lake but it is Sootface who is transformed into Dawn-Light.

**Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** – An African Tale by John Steptoe. Puffin Books published by the Penguin Group (1987) ISBN 0 14 055 946 9

This story was inspired by an old African folktale and the illustrations were inspired by the ruins of an ancient city found in Zimbabwe. The names of the characters are taken from the Shona language. It is a beautifully illustrated story that contains some but not all of the traditional Cinderella ingredients. There are, however, two sisters, a prince looking for his bride and some helpful animals.

**The Black Bowl in Fairy Tales from Far and Wide** retold by Fiona Waters and illustrated by Lisa Berkshire. Published by Barefoot Books. ISBN 1 901223 65 5

This Cinderella type story is from Japan. One of the sources for this retelling is Koji-Ki or

Record of Ancient Matters, an ancient Japanese text, which was compiled, in the eighth century. In this story a beautiful girl is made to wear a black bowl on her head by her dying parents. In this way she is protected from people who would take advantage of her. Eventually she meets the son of an important farmer, who falls in love with her despite the ugly headdress. On her wedding day the black bowl cracks to reveal not only her beauty but a dowry of precious gems as well. In Japan another well known version of this tale is called 'The Flowerpot Princess'.

**Strong Wind the Invisible in Fairy Tales from Far and Wide** retold by Fiona Waters and illustrated by Lisa Berkshire. Published by Barefoot Books. ISBN 1 901223 65 5

This Native American version of the Cinderella story comes from 'Canadian Wonder Tales by Cyrus Macmillan, published by John Lane in 1918.

In this version a great chief has three daughters, the youngest of who was kind and gentle. The two elder sisters are cruel to her but it is she who marries the great warrior Strong Wind the Invisible. It is similar to 'Sootface' mentioned above.

**The Egyptian Cinderella** by Shirley Climo and illustrated by Ruth Heller. Published by Harper Collins Children's Books (1989). ISBN 0 06 443279 3

The tale of Rhodopis and the rose-red slippers is believed to be one of the oldest Cinderella stories as it was first recorded by the Roman historian Strabo in the first century B.C. and is a mixture of fact and fable.

In this story Rhodopis, who was stolen from her home in Greece as a child, is teased by the other Egyptian slaves she lives with and is made to do all the work. Her only treasured possession is the pair of beautiful rose red slippers given to her by her master. One of these is stolen by a falcon and ends up in the lap of the great Pharaoh who is determined to find and marry its owner.

**The Korean Cinderella** by Shirley Climo and illustrated by Ruth Heller. A trophy Picture Book, published by Harper Collins (1993). ISBN 0 06 443397 8

In her retelling Shirley Climo has taken ingredients from three different variations of this tale which she says, '*have been a favourite of*

*Korean children for centuries*'. This is a beautifully illustrated book and the designs found on the cover and throughout the book were inspired by the patterns painted on the eaves of Korean temples. They are symbols representing good luck, protection and the cycle of reincarnation.

In this version Pear Blossom is cruelly treated by her step-mother while her step-sister, Peony, watches idly by. Magical creatures help poor Pear Blossom achieve the impossible tasks she is set and eventually her goodness (and golden sandal) is recognised by an important magistrate who wants to make her his bride.

**The Irish Cinderlad** retold by Shirley Climo and illustrated by Loretta Krupinski. Published by Harper Collins (1996). ISBN 0 06 024396 1

Shirley Climo has based her condensed retelling on Douglas Hyde's "The Bracket Bull" (Four Irish stories, Dublin 1898) and on Sara Cone Bryant's "Billy Beg and his Bull" (Best Stories to Tell to Children, Houghton Mifflin Co., Cambridge, MA 1905).

A Cinderlad is not unique to Ireland as tales with a hero can be found in many countries. In this story the life of Becan the Cinderlad, is made miserable by his wicked step-mother and step-sisters who banish him to the hard work of the fields. He is helped to overcome a variety of seemingly impossible tasks by the magical powers of a bull. In long ago Ireland, cattle were thought to have come from the sea and to have unusual powers. In particular, a cow with a white face and red ears was considered to be a highly enchanted creature. In one of his adventures Becan leaves behind one of his extremely large boots and so the princess is forced to scour the countryside looking for its owner.

**The King and his Daughters – a Punjabi King Lear in The Ocean of Story – A Collection of Magical Folk Tales** retold by Caroline Ness and illustrated by Jacqueline Mair with an introduction and notes by Neil Philip. A Macdonald Young Book (1995) ISBN 0 7500 1688 4

This is a simple and short version of the King Lear type where a king finally comes to understand the value of his daughter's love through an appreciation of the value of salt.

**The Boy and his Stepmother in The Ocean of Story – A Collection of Magical Folk Tales** retold by Caroline Ness and illustrated by Jacqueline Mair with an introduction and notes

by Neil Philip. A Macdonald Young Book (1995) ISBN 0 7500 1688 4

This retelling is based on the stories from the Santal tribes of northern India. It has a male Cinderella who loses hair from his head rather than a shoe. However the ending is not what we would normally expect.

**Fair, Brown and Trembling in Tales from Old Ireland** retold by Malachy Doyle and illustrated by Niamh Sharkey. Published by barefoot Books (2000) ISBN 1 902283 85 6

In his introduction Malachy Doyle reminds the reader of an old Irish proverb that says, 'A tune is more precious than birdsong, and a tale more precious than the wealth of the world.' His collection contains many of his favourite stories which he believes should be read aloud for this is how they work best.

Trembling, the youngest of three sisters (and most beautiful), was kept at home to do the cooking and cleaning. The henwife's magic enables her to go to church, three times in a row, wearing exquisite clothes and riding the finest of horses. The King of Omanyia follows her and gains one of her beautiful shoes. He does not rest until he finds its owner.

**The Tale of Baba-Yaga and fair Vassilisa in Koshka's Tales – Stories from Russia** retold by James Mayhew. Published by Kingfisher Books (1993) ISBN 1 85697 121 X

This beautifully illustrated book is James Mayhew's tribute to Rimsky-Korsakov. He reminds us that many of Russia's tales were interpreted both in poetry and music with their authors and composers adding their own twists in their retelling.

In this retelling, the fair Vassilisa is given, by her dying mother, a magic doll to help her in times of trouble. She certainly needs this when her new step-mother sends her into the forest to the house of the witch Baba-Yaga. Her kindness is rewarded and after many adventures Vassilisa meets and marries the tsarevich.

## Alternative Versions

'**Cinder Edna**' by Ellen Jackson, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley. Published by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books (1994) ISBN 0 688 12322 8

In this story Cinder Edna lives next door to Cinderella and it shows what can be achieved

through personal resourcefulness rather than a fairy godmother!

**Newfangled Fairy Tales** – Classic Stories with a Funny Twist, Book One, Edited by Bruce Lansky. Published by Meadow Book Creations (1997). ISBN 0 881166 299 2

Older children will enjoy these Fairy Stories that contain traditional themes within a modern perspective and use of language. In this collection Rudy the Prince by Lisa Harkrader, reveals a prince who rescues princesses inadvertently, and prefers to study fashion design to the prospect of marriage.

**Cinder-Elly** by Frances Minters and illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Viking published by the Penguin Group (1994). ISBN 0 670 84417 9

This version is set in New York City and is told in rhyme. Cinder-Elly's mean sisters won't let her go to the basket ball game but with the help of her godmother and a garbage can, she rides there in fine style to meet Prince Charming – the star of the team.

**Alex and the Glass Slipper** written and illustrated by Amanda Graham. Era publications (1991) ISBN 0 947212 98 1

This book comes with a retelling of Cinderella for comparison and is also available in big book form. Alex is a kitchenhand at 'The Flinders' Cellar' restaurant but his life is made miserable through the selfish behaviour of the other chefs who make him do all the work. His own talents are recognised when the princess of the land, holds a cookery competition. But Alex rejects the favours of the princess in order to establish his own restaurant – The Glass Slipper, with the girl who has helped him the most.

**Prince Cinders** by Babette Cole. Puffin Books, published by the Penguin group (1997). ISBN 0 14 055525 0

Prince Cinders is bullied by his three large and hairy brothers until one Saturday night when a small, dirty fairy falls down the chimney and promises him that all his dreams will come true. Indeed Princess Lovelypenny does claim her hero after finding the owner of a particular pair of trousers!

**Cinderboy** by Laurence Anholt and illustrated by Arthur Robins. Published by Orchard Books (1996) ISBN1 86039 284 9

Cinderboy is crazy about football, especially supporting his favourite team Royal Palace United. he is therefore devastated when his mean step-dad takes his lazy step-brothers to the Cup Final, leaving him at home all alone. However his TV godmother appears and promises that he shall go to the match after all!

**Princess Cinderella and her Wicked Sisters** by Emma Tennant and illustrated by Alex de Wolf. A Banana Book published by Heinemann (1996) ISBN 0 434 97983 X

Children are sometimes asked to write a continuation or sequel to a story. This book explores what might have happened after Cinderella and the Prince are married. The Ugly Sisters are so jealous that, with the help of a wizard, they find a way of casting a spell on the Prince and turn Cinderella into a mouse. She has to find her Fairy Godmother once more to put right all their evil mischief.

**Cinderella in Revolting Rhymes** by Roald Dahl. Published by Random House.

**Computerella** by Hazel Edwards, part of the Literacy Links series, published by Kingscourt.

## Other Resources

### Music

The most well known music is that by Prokofiev written for the ballet 'Cinderella' based on Perrault's version. This is readily available on bargain or medium priced CD. The two disc set, conducted by Andre Previn on EMI Double Forte is an excellent performance at bargain price.

NAXOS produce a version with Brian Cant retelling the story.

Philip Feeney composed music for a ballet based on Grimm's version. A selection from this is included on the NAXOS disc of 'Twentieth Century English Ballet Music'. This is also at a bargain price.

Baba Yaga by Liadov illustrates part of the Vasilissa story. A NAXOS concert, Russian Fireworks, includes it.

There is more Cinderella music including La Cenerentola by Rossini and works by Coates and Massenet.

### Video

Jim Henson produced a series of folktales under the overall title 'The Story Teller'. These appeared on Channel Four and are also available on video. Volume one includes the story 'Sapsorrow' is a German tale based on the 'unwanted marriage' group of Cinderella stories. This version has Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders playing the part of the unkind sisters. Each story begins with this quote, 'When people told themselves their past with stories, explained their present with stories and foretold their future with stories, the best place by the fire was kept for the storyteller'. This can be ordered through Jim Henson's website or through Amazon.

### Websites

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net>

A KS2 unit with teaching ideas and a list of resources needed.

[www.acs.ucalgary.ca](http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca)

search > Cinderella > click > Cinderella Stories  
The site provides a comprehensive resource that with links, reference books, picture books and many versions of the famous fairy tale.

[www.ucalgary.ca](http://www.ucalgary.ca)

search > Cinderella

This list of variations on the Cinderella story is accompanied by detailed teaching notes.

[www.pitt.edu](http://www.pitt.edu)

This is a wonderful site, very rich in uncommon resources.

[www~dept.usm.edu](http://www~dept.usm.edu)

(note the ~ after www instead of @)

The site is a text and image archive containing several English variations over the years.

[www.ballet.co.uk](http://www.ballet.co.uk)

Here are reviews of ballets and details of performances, including NBT and National Ballet. Do read the NBT review of Cinderella; it's interesting and moving.

[www.kstrom.net/isk/stories/cinder.html](http://www.kstrom.net/isk/stories/cinder.html)

This site gives some information about American Indian stories of the Cinderella type.

[www.bbc.co.uk/littlekids/fun/cinderella-s.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/littlekids/fun/cinderella-s.html)

This site provides a multimedia Cinderella story which will delight younger readers.