

Social Studies

Informational Nonfiction gives information and facts about a topic.

Text Feature

A **Venn Diagram** shows the similarities and differences between two things.

Content Vocabulary

versions
identity
transforms
elements



A Tale Told Around the World

by Lateesha Gray

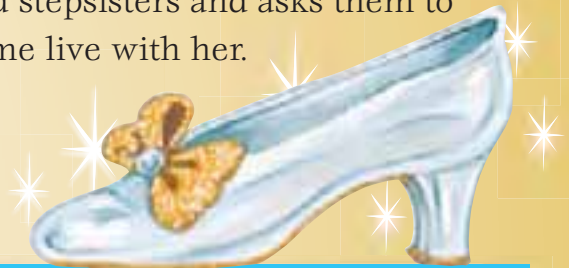
People all over the world enjoy fairy tales. Some fairy tales may be popular in only one country, but others are told around the globe. For example, the story of Cinderella has more than 500 **versions**. In most versions a kind young girl is the main character and other characters include a cruel stepmother and her equally cruel daughters, a fairy godmother, and a prince.

The plot is similar in all of the tales. The young girl is forced to do household chores, then someone grants her wish and helps her attend a celebration, such as a ball. At the ball the girl's beauty attracts a powerful man who falls in love at once. The girl's true **identity** is kept secret so the man must search all over the land for her.

The French Cinderella

The French writer Charles Perrault wrote the Cinderella tale that most of us know. Cinderella, or Cendrillon, is very beautiful, and her stepsisters are ugly and jealous. Cinderella is forced to do the most difficult chores. One day the prince invites all of the women in the kingdom to a ball. Cinderella almost does not go, until a fairy godmother appears and helps Cinderella. The fairy godmother waves her wand and **transforms** Cinderella's ragged dress into a beautiful gown.

Cinderella also wears glass slippers. The transformation will wear off at midnight so she must be sure to leave before then. As she is leaving the ball, Cinderella loses a slipper and the prince looks all over the kingdom for her. The prince finds her and marries her. At the end of the story, Cinderella forgives her stepmother and stepsisters and asks them to come live with her.



Venn Diagram

Reading a Venn Diagram

In a Venn diagram, differences are written in the left and right ovals. The similarities are written in the center section.

French Version

- Glass slipper
- Fancy ball
- Prince
- Fairy godmother
- Stepmother and stepsisters nice to her later

Cinderella Stories

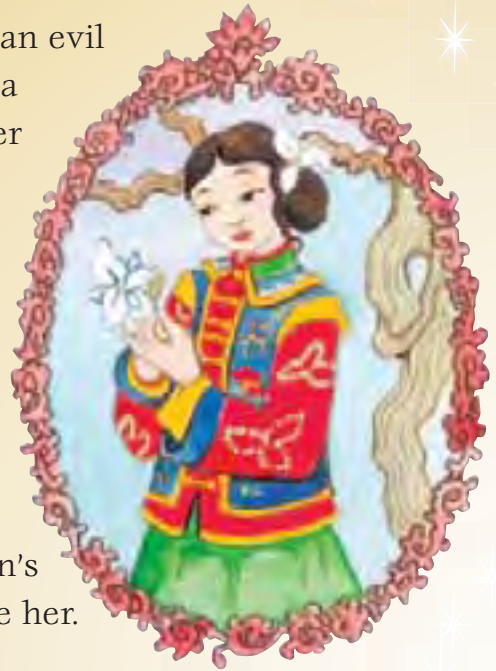
- A kind young girl is treated badly
- Evil stepmother, stepsisters
- Receives help that transforms her
- Must be home at a certain time
- Loses slipper
- Powerful man searches for unknown girl
- Man marries girl

Chinese Version

- Gold slipper
- Festival
- King
- Talking fish
- Stepmother and stepsister never see her again

The Chinese Cinderella

In the Chinese version, Yeh-Shen also has an evil stepmother and stepsisters. Her only friend is a beautiful fish with golden eyes. Her stepmother later kills the talking fish and cooks it for dinner. However, Yeh-Shen learns that the fish's bones are magical and hides them. The bones later help her dress in fine clothing for a festival. While rushing to leave the festival to be home by a certain time, she loses a gold slipper. A king buys the slipper and searches for its owner. When he meets Yeh-Shen, he is struck by her beauty and falls in love. Yeh-Shen's stepmother and stepsisters are forbidden to see her.



The Egyptian Cinderella



An Egyptian version of *Cinderella* is based on the actual marriage of a slave girl and the pharaoh, or ruler, of ancient Egypt. In this version Rhodopis, a servant girl from Greece, is teased by other servants in the household. Her only friends are the animals along the river. She often sings and dances for them. One evening she loses a slipper, and a falcon snatches it. The falcon flies over the pharaoh's throne and drops the slipper. The pharaoh searches his kingdom for the woman whose foot fits the slipper. When he finds Rhodopis, he falls in love and she becomes his queen.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CINDERELLA

Some Native American tales echo many of the **elements** of *Cinderella*. One famous tale tells about a young maiden whose hands and face are burned from tending a fire. Like the European *Cinderella*, she is usually left out of events and feels as though she does not belong. This story, however, uses the setting and customs of the Algonquian nation to tell this tale. A Zuni version features talking turkeys that help the girl. The setting for that tale is a village in the southwestern United States.



Connect and Compare



1. Look at the Venn diagram on page 663. What are two details from the French *Cinderella* story that are different from details in the Chinese version? **Reading a Venn Diagram**
2. Why do you think the story of *Cinderella* is so popular around the world? **Analyze**
3. Think about *The Golden Mare*, *the Firebird*, and *the Magic Ring*. In what ways is the story similar to that of *Cinderella* and *Yeh-Shen*? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Social Studies Activity

Make a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts a *Cinderella* tale from another culture to the *Cinderella* story you know.



Find out more about *Cinderella* tales at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Voice

In an eyewitness account, writers describe the important events they see and how they feel. They use appropriate words to show **voice**. That way, readers feel as if they were there.

Write an Eyewitness Account

First Steps

by Natsu Y.

I shared my own thoughts about my little brother's first steps.

I witnessed something very important and unexpected the day my little brother, Toshi, turned 11 months old.

We were in the living room after dinner. Toshi was standing up, holding on to the coffee table. He does that well. I sat on the floor a few yards away. Toshi has never walked before. He was never able to balance himself without the coffee table.

"Come on, Toshi! Walk over to me!" I called. I thought he would never do it. I had been calling to him for over a month, but he wouldn't move from behind that table.

Toshi stared at me, smiling and bouncing. Suddenly, he put his arms straight out and started walking right toward me. I couldn't believe it! One, two, three, four steps, then plop. My little brother had taken his first steps, and they were right to me!

I expressed how happy and proud I felt.



Your Turn

What interesting or important event have you witnessed? Write an eyewitness account about how you felt, and describe the event in detail. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I choose to describe an event that was important to me?
- Organization:** Can the reader tell how the event unfolded before me?
- Voice:** Did I share the emotions I felt as I witnessed the event? Did I choose words that show **voice**?
- Word Choice:** Did I use vivid words to describe the details of what happened?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I use a variety of sentence types?
- Conventions:** Did I use adverbs correctly? Did I proofread for spelling errors?