

Grade 3: Unit 4, Week 5 A Place of My Own

Read Aloud: **Cinderella**

A Fairy Tale retold by Margaret H. Lippert

Wonderful Words: *scour, consult, impose, refusal, tease*

Cinderella

There once was a man whose wife died and so he took another. The new wife was proud and haughty, and had two daughters who were just like her in every way. But the man also had a daughter, and she was sweet and gentle and good as gold.

The wedding was hardly over before the woman began to make her stepdaughter's life a misery. The young girl's goodness was like a beacon showing up the faults of her own two daughters and so the woman could not bear her. She gave the girl the meanest work in the house to do. She had to scour the dishes and scrub the floors and pick up after her stepsisters.

From early morning until late at night she was made to work, and her bedroom was in a garret, way at the top of the house. She slept upon a wretched straw bed while her two stepsisters lay in fine rooms with carpets on the floors and looking glasses so tall that they could see themselves from head to foot. The young girl did all she was asked and dared not complain to her father, who would only have scolded her, for his new wife ruled him entirely.

When she had finished her work, she used to go into the chimney corner and sit quietly among the cinders, and so she was called Cinderwench. But the younger sister, who was not quite so rude as the others, called her Cinderella. In her ragged clothing,

with her dirty face, Cinderella was yet a hundred times more beautiful than her stepsisters.

After some months had passed, the king's son gave a ball for all the stylish people in the countryside. The two sisters were also invited and immediately they set about choosing the gowns and petticoats, the hair ornaments and slippers they would wear. This made Cinderella's work still harder, for it was she who ironed their linen and pleated their ruffles. All day long the sisters talked of nothing but how they should be dressed.

"I think I shall wear my red velvet suit with the French trimmings," said the eldest.

"And I," said the youngest, "shall wear my gold-flowered mantle and my diamond necklace."

The best hairdressers were called in to style their hair; the best face powder and lip rouge were obtained. In all these matters the sisters consulted Cinderella, for she always knew what was most becoming. One night, as she was helping them to undress, they said to her, "Cinderella, would you not like to go to the ball?"

"Please, sisters, do not mock me," she said. "How could I ever dream of such a thing?"

"You are right," they answered. "People would surely laugh to see a Cinderwench at the ball."

For two days the sisters could hardly eat for excitement. So tightly did they lace themselves that they broke a dozen laces, and they were always at their looking glasses, trying on their gowns.

At last the evening of the ball came. Cinderella watched the sisters leave for the court, and when she had lost sight of them, she began to weep. Her godmother, who was a fairy, saw her tears and asked what the matter was.

“I wish I could—I wish I could—” But she could not speak for crying.

“You wish you could go to the ball. Is that not so?” said her godmother.

Cinderella nodded with her eyes cast down.

“Well, then, go you shall,” said her godmother. Then she took the girl and bade her go into the garden for a pumpkin.

Cinderella picked the finest she could find and carried it back to her godmother, though she could not imagine how a pumpkin could help her to get to the ball. Then her godmother scooped out the inside of it, leaving nothing but the rind, and struck it with her wand. Instantly the pumpkin turned into a fine gilded coach.

Next her godmother went to look in the mousetrap, where she found six mice, all alive. She told Cinderella to lift the trap door, and as each mouse came out she tapped it with her wand. One by one the mice were turned into dapple-gray horses, and soon there was a fine set of them to draw the coach.

But they would still need a coachman, so Cinderella said, “I will go and see if there isn’t a rat in the rat trap. Perhaps we might make a coachman of him.”

“You are right,” replied her godmother. “Go quickly and take a look.”

Cinderella brought the rat trap to her and there were three rats inside. The godmother chose the one with the longest whiskers, and as soon as she touched him with her wand he became a fat coachman with a most imposing beard.

After that she said to Cinderella, “Go again into the garden and you will find six lizards behind the watering pot. Bring them to me by their tails.”

As soon as the girl had done so, her godmother turned them into six footmen, who jumped up behind the coach and held on as if they had done nothing else their whole lives.

Then her godmother said to Cinderella, “Well, my dear, here is your carriage. I hope it pleases you.”

“Oh, yes!” the girl cried. “But am I to wear these rags to the ball?”

Her godmother simply touched Cinderella with her wand and at once her clothes were turned into a gown of gold and silver with jewels embroidered on the skirt. Then she gave Cinderella a pair of glass slippers, the most beautiful imaginable. But as the girl was making ready to leave, her godmother warned her that she must return home by midnight. If she stayed one moment longer, her coach would be a pumpkin again, her horses mice, her coachman a rat, her footmen lizards, and her clothing would turn back into rags.

Cinderella promised she would not be late and then she went off to the ball, her heart pounding for joy.

The king’s son had been told that a great princess, unknown to all the company, would soon arrive, and he ran out to receive her himself. He gave her his hand as she sprang from the coach and led her into the hall where everyone was assembled. At once there was silence. So awed were the guests by the mysterious princess that they left off dancing and the musicians ceased to play. Then a hushed murmur swept the room:

“Ah, how lovely she is! How lovely!”

The king himself, old as he was, could not keep his eyes off her, and he whispered to the queen that he had never before seen a more enchanting creature.

All the women looked closely at her gown and her hair ornaments so they might have theirs made to the same pattern, if only they could find such fine silk and jewels and such skillful hands to work them.

The king's son led her across the floor and they danced together again and again. A fine banquet was served, but the young prince only gazed at her and could not eat a bite.

After a time she left his side and went to sit by her sisters. She treated them with kindness and offered them sections of the oranges that the prince had given her. It very much pleased them to be singled out in this way.

Then Cinderella heard the clock strike a quarter to twelve. Quickly she wished the company good night and ran from the hall and down the palace steps to her coach.

When she was home again she found her godmother and thanked her and asked if she might go to the ball again the next day. As she was telling her godmother all that had happened, her two sisters came into the room.

"How long you have stayed!" she greeted them, rubbing her eyes as if she had been asleep.

"You would have stayed as well," said her sisters. "There was an unknown princess, the most beautiful ever seen in this world. She sat with us and gave us oranges."

"Was she really so very beautiful? And do you not know her name?" Then Cinderella turned to the eldest one. "Ah, dear sister, won't you give me your yellow dress that you wear every day so that I might see the princess for myself?"

“Lend my clothing to a dirty Cinderwench? I should be out of my mind!” cried the sister.

Cinderella had expected such an answer and she was very glad of the refusal. The next evening the two sisters went to the ball and she went too, dressed even more exquisitely than the first time. The king’s son was always with her and spoke to her with words of praise. So entranced was Cinderella that she forgot her godmother’s warning and heard the chimes of midnight when she thought it could be no more than eleven o’clock.

At once she arose and fled, nimble as a deer. Though the prince rushed after her, he could not catch her. In her haste she left behind one of the glass slippers, which he picked up and carried with him.

Cinderella’s coach had vanished and she had to run home in the dark. Of her finery nothing remained but the other glass slipper. The guards at the palace gates were asked if they had seen a princess, but they replied that no one had come there but a poor country girl dressed all in rags.

When the two sisters returned from the ball, Cinderella asked them if they had enjoyed it and whether the unknown princess had again appeared. They told her yes, but said she had hurried away the moment the clock struck midnight. And now the king’s son had only the glass slipper she had left behind. They said he was brokenhearted and would do anything to find her once more.

All of this was true. A few days afterward the king’s son proclaimed that he would marry the woman for whom the glass slipper had been made. The couriers began by trying the slipper on all the princesses. They tried it on the duchesses and then on the

ladies of the court. But nowhere in the land could they find a woman whose foot was small enough to fit the slipper.

At last it was brought to the two sisters. They pushed and pushed, trying to squeeze their feet inside, but they were not able to manage it. Cinderella was in the room and recognized her slipper at once. "Let me see if it will fit my foot," she said.

Her sisters began to laugh and tease her. But the courier who was sent with the slipper looked at Cinderella and saw that she was lovely. He said his orders were that every woman in the land should try it on.

Cinderella sat down and he held the slipper up to her foot. It went on at once, as easily as if it had been made of wax. Then, while the two sisters watched in astonishment, Cinderella drew from her pocket the other glass slipper and put it on too. Suddenly her godmother was there and she touched the girl's ragged clothes with her wand and they became a gown even more beautiful than the ones she had worn to the ball.

And now her two sisters knew she had been the unknown princess they had so admired. They threw themselves at her feet to beg her forgiveness for all their ill treatment. Cinderella took them up and embraced them and said that she forgave them with all her heart.

Then Cinderella was taken before the prince. He was overwhelmed with love for her and some time later they were married. Cinderella, who was as good as she was beautiful, gave her two sisters a home in the palace, and that very same day they were married to two lords of the court.

scour

Define: To **scour** is to clean by rubbing hard.

Example: I **scoured** the old sink until it looked brand new.

Ask: Why would you need to **scour** a pan instead of just wash it?

consult

Define: To **consult** is to go for advice or information.

Example: We **consulted** the school calendar to see when we would have a day off.

Ask: Why would an athlete **consult** a coach?

imposing

Define: When someone or something is **imposing**, it is impressive; you remember it because of appearance, size, or power.

Example: The **imposing** jumbo jet appeared to be twice as big as a regular jet.

Ask: What might be an example of an **imposing** animal?

refusal

Define: A **refusal** is when somebody says no or rejects something.

Example: I felt proud and a little scared after my **refusal** to go along with the bully.

Ask: Why would a **refusal** to do school work get someone in trouble?

tease

Define: To **tease** is to annoy or to make fun of; sometimes in a playful way.

Example: I **tease** my cat by not letting her catch a piece of string when I drag it along the floor.

Ask: Why do you think people **tease** each other?