



A Very Slippery Tale

The story of Cinderella and her glass slipper is one of the most popular tales of all time. But where did her story come from?

The first appearance of the *Cinderella* story dates back to China more than 1,100 years ago. It was written down by a man called Tuan Ch'êng-shih, who heard it from a friend called Li Shih-yüan. Tuan's version of the story featured an evil stepmother, a slipper and a royal love interest (a king rather than a prince), and Cinderella was called Yeh-Shen in this version.

Although there weren't more familiar characters like the fairy godmother or wicked step-sisters, it's this version that has provided the basic 'rags-to-riches' tale that's been told ever since.

Different countries and cultures have had their own versions of the *Cinderella* tale.

In a version from Egypt in the second century AD, the heroine Rhodopis loses a sandal, not a slipper, which is stolen by a cheeky eagle while she's bathing in the River Nile. The eagle drops the sandal in the lap of the pharaoh, who thinks it's a sign from the gods. He then vows to marry the owner of the sandal and sends out slaves to search for Rhodopis.

There have also been African, Native American and Scottish versions of the *Cinderella* story. One of the first European versions to appear was *La gatta Cenerentola* or *The Hearth Cat* in 1634, collected by the Italian Giambattista Basile in his book *Il Pentamerone*. This had a complicated plot that was a lot darker than the story we know today, with the heroine Zezolla murdering her stepmother, her father marrying a governess and then ending up with six stepsisters as a result! Oh, and there's a magic tree fairy rather than a fairy godmother.

Later in the 17th century, in 1697, a Frenchman called Charles Perrault first published the story under the name we know today, *Cinderella*, in a collection of eight fairy tales for kids called *Histoires ou contes du temps passé*. Perrault added a few things to the tale that are familiar today, such as the fairy godmother, the pumpkin and the glass slippers. When Perrault's version was translated into English, some people think that the original slippers in his version were made of fur, as the French word for 'fur' (*vair*) sounds similar to the French word for 'glass' (*verre*).



However, it's possible that Perrault's original slippers were intended to be made from glass, as this symbolised the purity of Cinderella and also stopped them from being stretched to fit the wrong feet - something those devious stepsisters would no doubt have a hand in...or foot in!

Perrault's book was translated into English under the title *Mother Goose Tales*. It's his version that has become the most familiar, with many of the modern versions of Cinderella borrowing his additional characters and elements, including Disney's animated musical from 1950 and Kenneth Branagh's 2015 film version.

However, the 19th-century German adaptation *Aschenputtel*, by the Brothers Grimm, Wilhelm and Jacob, had more in common with the Basile rather than the Perrault version - in fact, they were Grimm by name, grim by nature, with the stepsisters cutting off bits of their feet to fit the slipper and then getting their eyes pecked by pigeons, who had warned the prince of their cheating ways! Ouch!

Over 50 years before the Grimms' version, the first pantomime of *Cinderella* took place at Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 1804. Described as a "New Grand Allegorical Pantomime Spectacle", this version was quite different to most of the modern pantos you'd see today. It was based on an opera, *La Cenerentola*, by an Italian composer called Rossini. Many of the characters from the opera appeared in the Drury Lane panto, but the only ones we'd recognise today are the Baron and the Prince's valet, Dandini - there was no Fairy Godmother or Buttons, and Cinderella was called Angelina.

A panto at the Strand Theatre in 1860 was notable for having men playing the stepsisters, something that has remained a tradition ever

since, with panto dames taking great delight in dressing up as ugly and grotesque as possible! The Strand production was also the first panto to feature Buttons, although he went by the name of Buttoni at this stage.

Pantos, films, musicals and book have continued to make the *Cinderella* story their own, with writers and producers interpreting the story in different ways. In a version by Roald Dahl in his *Revolting Rhymes* series, he jokingly claims that his story is the definitive one: "I guess you think you know this story. You don't. The real one's much more gory." He's true to his word, with the prince chopping off the stepsisters' heads after tricking him by swapping slippers!

No matter what version you've heard, Cinderella's heart-warming tale of a poor girl triumphing over adversity is still as relevant today as it was 1000 years ago, and its magic will be weaved again tonight in this fabulous panto production.

Paul Bovey
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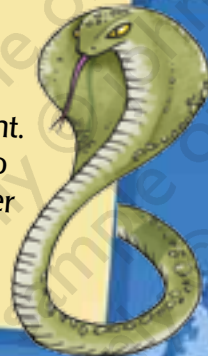


Cinders around the world...



INDIA

There is an Indian version of *Cinderella* called *Anklet for a Princess*, with a heroine called Cinduri. When her father and mother die, Cinduri is left with her father's other wife and her stepsister Lata, neither of whom show her any love. Instead of a fairy godmother, there's the Godfather Snake, who appears whenever Cinduri intones a chant. There's also a Crown Prince, who identifies the heroine by the silver anklet of the tale's title rather than a slipper.



The story of *Cinderella* is one that has had audiences spellbound around the world, with different cultures and countries having their own versions of the story.

The best-known are the earliest Chinese and Egyptian tales, and the Frenchman Perrault's version, but there are many more lesser-known ones, with slightly different plots, settings and characters. What all these versions have in common is the moral at the heart of the story: the good and humble heroine will live happy ever after!



NATIVE AMERICAN

The Native American and Canadian version of *Cinderella* is called *Strong Wind* and also features a young heroine and her cruel older sisters. She's saved by the warrior Strong Wind, who can make himself invisible, whereby his sister asks female suitors if they can see him. The heroine is the first to tell the truth and say she can't, making her the one he will marry. The sisters pay the price in this version, the hero turning them into aspen trees!



NIGERIA

Nigeria's version of *Cinderella*, *Chinye: a West African Folk Tale*, features a greedy stepmother and stepsister, but there's no sign of a prince or a slipper. There's no pumpkin either, although there is a gourd, which the heroine, Chinye, is told by an old woman to collect from a hut. She picks the smallest gourd, which smashes open and releases loads of riches. When her greedy sister picks a bigger gourd, all of her possessions blow away!



BRAZIL

There's a snake in the Brazilian *Cinderella* too, although at the start of the story it's wrapped around the unnamed heroine's neck! The snake, Dona Labismina, helps the girl find her prince with the help of three dresses in the colours of the sky, earth and sea. However, the girl is so busy feasting and dancing with the prince that she forgets to honour a promise with Dona, which would break a curse and allow it to regain its human form.



POLAND

The Polish tale *Raisel's Riddle* is quite similar to the well-known *Cinderella* story. The heroine, Raisel, is forced to work by a cruel cook instead of a stepmother or stepsister, and the rabbi's son takes the place of the prince. There is also an old beggar woman who has the powers of the fairy godmother and sends Raisel to a Purim play (a Jewish festival). There, she woos the prince with a riddle, which he uses to track her down instead of a slipper.

GREECE

One of the best Greek folk tales based on *Cinderella* is *The Orphan*. Our heroine in this story is referred to as the Orphan throughout, even though her father is still alive and married to a cruel stepmother. The fairy godmother's role is taken by Mother Nature, who gives the Orphan natural gifts from the sun, moon, dawn and star, plus a pair of blue shoes, one of which gets left behind in a sticky trap set by the prince on the church steps.

THAILAND

Thailand's version of the *Cinderella* story, *Kao and the Golden Fish*, has many similar elements to the one we know and love: a wicked stepmother, a mean stepsister, and a kind young girl who is forced to work in rags, until she meets and marries a prince and moves to his palace. What makes this story unique is the young girl's shape-shifting mother, who appears to her in the form of a golden fish, an eggplant and a pair of trees!

IRAQ

Like the Thai version of *Cinderella*, *The Golden Sandal* features a talking fish. Its life is spared by the heroine, Maha, and in return it provides her with a silk gown and golden sandals to wear at the ball. Having to leave the ball before her cruel stepmother, she leaves behind her sandal, which is found by the prince, Tariq. He marries Maha, despite the stepmother's attempt to sabotage the wedding by rubbing rotten fish oil in Maha's hair while she slept!

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's version of *Cinderella* is called *Murafo's Beautiful Daughters*. It tells the tale of two sisters, kind-hearted Nyasha and selfish older sister Manyara, who boasts of one day being queen and her younger sister her servant. Both sisters are tested for their generosity by the king, who appears as a hungry boy, a wise old woman and a snake. Only Nyasha passes the test and she becomes queen, her sister ending up as her servant.

Vinders'

Boopy Sizards!



These lizards have all become entangled!
Can you tell how many there are?

What's Missing?

Cinderella is having a big tidy-up in the kitchen, but she's gone and lost something!
Can you find out what it is?

Have a look at all these objects.
All of them begin with the same first letter, except three of them. Use those letters to find out what the missing object is!



Can you find that object on these pages?

Vinders' Time!

There are many different versions of Cinderella all over the world, and when it's midnight here it's a different time each day for each of them!
Can you write in the proper times of day for Inuit Cinders, Iroquois Cinders, Brazilian Cinders, Kenyan Cinders, Indian Cinders, Thai Cinders and Japanese Cinders?



13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

0:00

Puzzlers!

What's in a Name?

All these jumbled-up names are people in the *Cinderella* story - can you unscramble them to tell who they are?

The red letters spell out a secret word!

INDIDAN

REAL
CLINED

MARCHING
PINCER

MERRY
GOOD FAITH

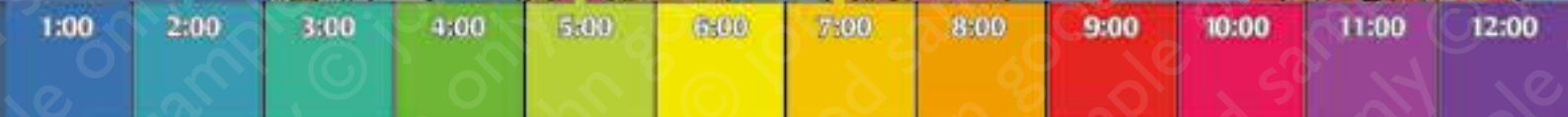
NUTS BOT

Buttons' Secret Message!



Buttons has a pocketful of... well, buttons, of course!

He's used some of them to spell out a secret about himself - can you use the code on the left to work out what his secret is?



Spot the Difference!

The Ugly Sisters have invited their cousins to the ball. Unfortunately, they look identical, and now poor Cinderella doesn't know who is who!

However, there are TWELVE tiny differences between them - can you spot them all?



Colour Me In!



Colour Me In!



Ask Me Anything...

While tidying up, Cinders found this handy gadget that answers ANYTHING!

Simply cut out around the bold lines, and fold along the dotted lines, sticking the tabs to the nearest side with a glue stick - you'll end up with a 12-sided sphere.



Always ask an adult to help when using scissors.



Ask your question, roll the sphere, and the answer is on the uppermost surface. Have fun!

Ask Me Anything...

The Prince likes to ask lots of questions, so his advisors gave him this handy gadget that answers ANYTHING!

Simply cut out around the bold lines, and fold along the dotted lines, sticking the tabs to the nearest side with a glue stick - you'll end up with a 12-sided sphere.

Always ask an adult to help when using scissors.



Ask your question, roll the sphere, and the answer is on the uppermost surface. Have fun!

Wordsearch Wizardry!

The Fairy Godmother has hidden a magic word inside her spellbook so those pesky Ugly Sisters can't find it!

She has hidden the word amongst all different kinds of words that have something to do with magic. They may run up, down, across, backwards and even diagonally!

Can you find them all? When you have found all the words, there will be ELEVEN letters left over, which will spell out the hidden word!



A
T
R
I
C
K
S
D
W
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D
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T
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N
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F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

- AMAZES
- BROOM
- CHANT
- CHARM
- CAULDRON
- ENCHANTMENT
- FAIRY DUST
- FAMILIAR
- GLAMOUR
- HEX
- HOCUS POCUS
- HOODOO
- ILLUSIONISTS
- INCANTATE
- JINX
- MAGIC
- MOJO
- MYSTICAL
- POTION
- SORCERY
- SPELLBOOK
- SPELLS
- TIME
- TRICKS
- VOODOO
- WAND
- WARD
- WIZARDRY
- ZAP

Wonderful Wordtrail!

MAGICINDERSL
TEVILSTEPMOI
AAPUMPKINITP
LOLAVENCHCHP
LSSTODAYAE
ESNSUDETNVRR
PAWOGGNINEOA
SLGNIKOOLAYT
RETSISYLGUEH

Here is a wordsearch with a difference - all the words you have clues to below share the same first and last letter! They all run in straight lines. The first word has been given to you to help start you off.

1. Spells are made of this (5)
2. Cinderella's name is shortened to this (7)
3. You wear this on your foot (7)
4. Large mouse-like creature used in the spell (3)
5. These make Cinders' life a misery! (3, 4, 7)
6. Magic is used to cast this (5)
7. The opposite of early (4)
8. Another lady who hates Cinders (the Ugly Sisters' mum!) (4, 10)
9. Kings, queens, princes and princesses are all part of the _____ family (5)
10. _____ at the clock to make sure it's not midnight yet! (7)
11. Cinders' slippers were made of this (5)
12. Something Cinders would use to wash with (4)
13. Big orange vegetable, turned into a coach! (7)
14. Opposite of nasty (4)
15. Ladies wear these at posh events like royal balls (7, 5)
16. Cinders was treated like this by the Ugly Sisters (5)
17. When something is magical, it's said to be _____ (9)
18. Something Cinders would have to do every day (4)
19. The day before tomorrow! (5)

Choose Shoes!



Looking around the palace, Cinderella has found a closet full of shoes!
Can you find eight sets of identical pairs, one set of three identical pairs,
one set of four identical pairs, and one pair on its own?

After the Ball...

Can you help the Prince catch up with Cinderella (without crossing in front of the servants). He'll need the slipper as well - can you get to that too?



Answers!

Wonderful Wordtrail!

MAGICINDERSL
 TEVILSTEPMOI
 AAPUMPKINI TP
 LOLAVENCHCHP
 LSSTODAYAE EE
 ENSUDETNR RR
 PAWOGGNE OA
 SLGNIKOOLAYT
 RETSISYLGUEH

Choose Shoes!

- PAIRS { AT BP DX
 EL FV GQ
 HN IS
- SET OF 3 MUW
- SET OF 4 CJOR
- Single Pair K

Wordsearch Wizardry!

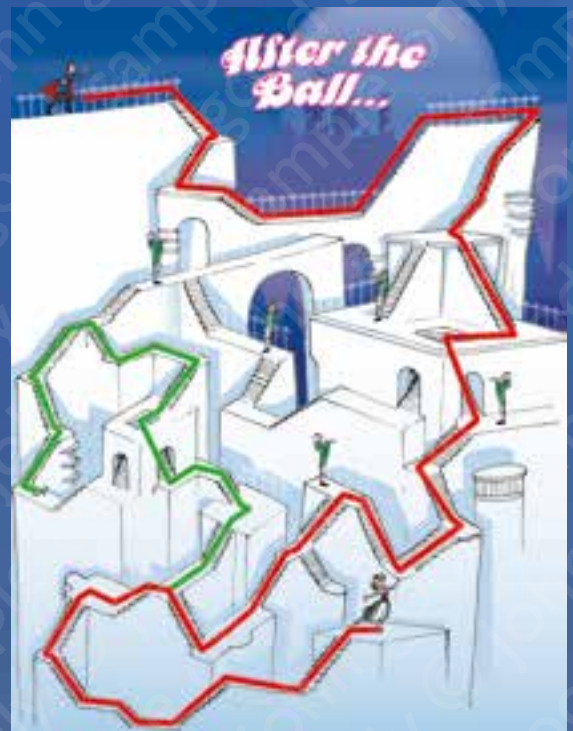


ABRACADABRA

What's Missing?



Spot the Difference!



Answers!

**Sloopy
Sizards!**

9



**Buttons' Secret
Message!**



I AM A
TIDDLYWINKS
CHAMPION

**What's
Missing?**



**What's in
a Name?**

DANDINI
CINDERELLA
BUTTONS
PRINCE CHARMING
FAIRY GODMOTHER
PANTO

**Binders
Time!**

