

## Cinderella... A Fractured Fairy Tale

Presented By  
Fantasy Theatre Factory

The original Cinderella was written by the Brother's Grimm and is nothing like the "Disney Version" that we all know today. Since it's origin there have been hundreds of scripts, plays and stories written about poor Cinderella. Fantasy Theatre Factory has created our own unique version in the style of **British Pantomime**.



### The Art Of British Pantomime

*"Cinderella Salmonella and Rubella, A Fractured Fairytale" is performed in the theatrical style known as a British Pantomime or Panto.* In the United States pantomime usually alludes to a silent performer on a blank stage but Fantasy Theatre imports this traditional favorite all the way from the **United Kingdom**. Centuries ago performances were mime, but modern Pantos are very popular and incorporate all different types of acting skills, the louder the better!

Primarily based upon a **fairy tale** or **nursery rhyme** British Pantos are an excellent introduction to the theatre, including **comedy, drama, music** - all the magic of the theatre. Pantos are "an opportunity to hiss and boo at the villains, scream at the top of your voice (and be encouraged to do so!) and you even get to sing along!"

#### What else signifies a British Pantomime?

- \*Outrageous Female characters (Dames) who are obviously Male actors in big bright costumes.
- \*A princess or damsel who is saved by and then marries the leading male.
- \*A scene where someone is misbehaving behind someone else,  
(causing plenty of audience shouts of "behind you!")
- \*A slapstick fuss where someone gets covered in something nasty.
- \*A scene with two characters who argue back and forth.  
(*"Oh no it isn't" and "Oh yes it is!"*)



### The Principal Characters

*Segments From the Review Insights From A Cinderella Story By Jonathan Young*

#### Cinderella

The widower's daughter is working like a servant in her own house. The chores run her ragged; washing, ironing, scrubbing, dusting and cooking. This sounds like the real life we all know well. The mundane tasks never end. Keeping a hopeful spirit in the face of all the chores is a considerable challenge. There are always step-sisters within -- inner critics ready to find fault with everything we do. It is easy to project this -- so that we imagine that others think badly of us. Dealing with the mean step-sister voices within is a struggle for most people.

#### The Stepsisters

The Stepsisters have every intention of winning the Prince's favor. The step-sisters may represent our vain qualities and self-importance. The part of the personality that believes in control tends to value comparisons, power, status, and competing. That kind of consciousness wants the Prince for material advantages and to make the others envious. We all have to watch out for our ability to indulge crass motivations -- that can ultimately be self defeating.

#### The Fairy Godmother

As always, Cinderella has her helpers. At times of crisis sometimes we feel very alone. It is important to realize that we have allies that are available to us. We have friends, teachers, family. Later, we have the memory of all of these. It's important to be able to be in touch with them both literally and in the imagination -- In the stories it's often someone who magically appears to provide help at a time of great anxiety. In our lives, it can be the surprising awareness of a perspective or strength we didn't know we had.

## Before The Play



### Class Discussion

1. *What do the terms “Play” and “Live Theater” mean?*
2. *Are there different kinds or styles of theater? How can we tell the difference?*
3. *How is live theater different from TV or the movies?*  
(Answers may vary)
  - Live theater cannot be stopped to re-shoot a scene or fix mistakes.
  - Live theater involves the audience.
  - The actors on stage can hear the audience!
4. *What is an audience?*
  - What is the audience's job?
  - How should an audience behave?
5. *What is an Actor? Can you name any actors?*
  - An actor is someone who makes what is not real seem real.

#### **Elements To Watch For:**

The style of the play.

How many actors are in the play? How many characters?

How does this version of Cinderella differ from others?

Qualities of the characters and how they change from beginning to end.

How are characters different from each other?

#### **Activity: “Tell The Story”**

- *Most students are familiar with the tale of Cinderella and can clearly recall the story details.*

1. Have a student stand and deliver a narrative describing all of the story's characters and details.
2. Next, encourage the rest of the class to corroborate this version of Cinderella by communicating their individual memories of the story. As each student tells their version create a list of the overlapping details common.
3. Remind students that they are about to watch a new adaptation of Cinderella. Encourage the students to look for their list of common traits in the upcoming performance.

#### ***Sunshine State Standards:***

**LA.E.1.1.1** (PreK-2) The student knows the basic characteristics of fables, stories, and legends.

**LA.A. 2.2.7** (3-5) The student recognizes the use of comparison and contrast in a text.

**Activity: “The Changing Play”**

- Have the class sit as though they were a grown up audience watching a play.
  - Have them change their reactions as the imaginary play changes from comedy, drama, Horror, Musical etc.
  - Ask the class to pretend to be a bad audience that is distracting and impolite. Then ask them to behave correctly.
  - Discuss the difference and create a plan together for appropriate theater behavior.

**TH.D.1.1.3** (PreK-2) The student understands appropriate audience responses to dramatic presentations.



## After The Play



### Identifying with Characters

1. Cinderella is a story about the rewards of being noble and hopeful in the face of adversity. Cinderella sings and dances with her imaginary friends to turn her chores into a game. Many real life situations require us to use our imaginations as well.

- Encourage students to describe a tedious task or job they must perform.
- Students then develop and communicate their own imaginative methods for making these activities enjoyable.

2. The Fairy Godmother appears when Cinderella is in need just as real life family members help each other, however, Cinderella had only the *memory* of her real mother.

- Students can relate to Cinderella by identifying individuals who support them in times of need.
- Students can then identify those ways in which the *memory* of friends and family is supportive.

(*Example: How do your parents guide you when they are at work and you are at school?*)

**LA.E.2.1.1** - (PreK-2)The student uses personal perspective in responding to a work of literature as relating characters and simple events in a story or biography to people or events in his or her own life.

**LA.E.2.2.3** - (3-5) The student responds to a work of literature by explaining how the motive of the characters or the causes of events compare with those in his or her own life.



### Plot and Character Arc

In every story no matter how silly, principle characters go through a monumental change that can be

illustrated with a **Character Arc**. Character Arcs occur in plays, movies, and television as well as printed fiction. Main characters are classified as having the greatest arc which symbolizes the most significant change from beginning to end. By drawing a character arc students see how a writer develops a story's character and plot. Creating a character arc is simple;

**Step 1.) Describe the character in the BEGINNING of the play.**

This is the start point of your arc.

(How does Cinderella look, feel and act? What are her surroundings?)

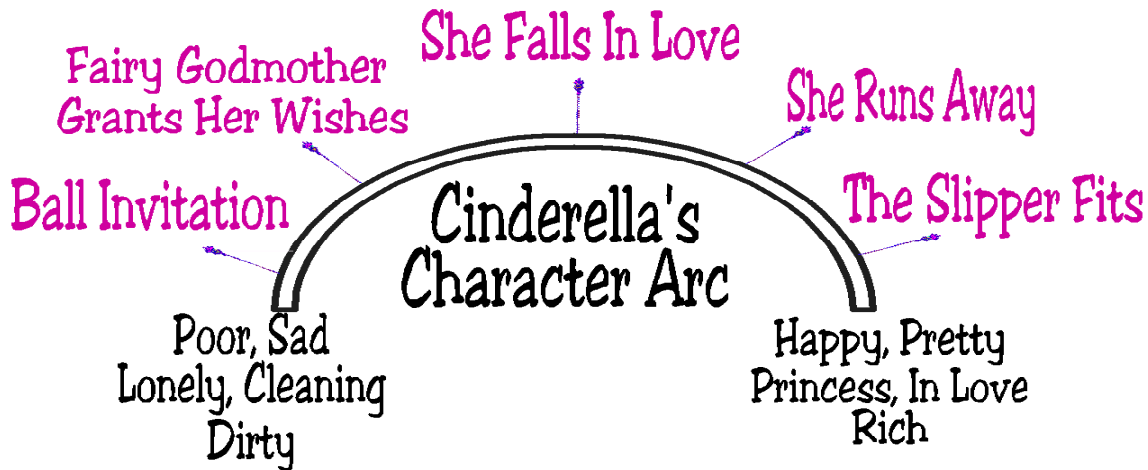
**Step 2.) Identify the internal incidents in the MIDDLE that shape the arc.**

These are the big and small events that change the character.

(Hint: The top of the arc marks the biggest change of the story and is usually when the character finds love.)

**Step 3.) Describe the character at the END.**

This is the end point of your arc.



**LA.E.1.1.2** - (PreK-2) The student identifies the story elements of setting, plot character, problem, and solution/resolution.

**LA.E.2.2.4** - (3-5) The student identifies the major theme in a story or nonfiction text.

**Advanced Student Character Arcs**

Ask students to create character arcs for their favorite books and movies. This activity is fun, surprising and very enlightening!

**LA.A.2.3.1** - (6-8) The student determines the main idea or essential message in a text and identifies relevant detail and facts and patterns of organization.

**LA.E. 1.3.2** - (6-8) The student recognizes complex elements of plot, including setting, character development, conflicts, and resolutions.

## Theater Vocabulary

Play	<i>A story written for the stage and the performance of that story.</i>
Set	<i>Where the play is performed.</i>
Actors	<i>The people who perform the play.</i>
Script	<i>The written story that is performed by the actors.</i>

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Cast	<i>A collective term for the actors who perform the play.</i>
Rehearsal	<i>Practice of the play.</i>
Prop	<i>Any object an actor holds in their hand.</i>
Performance	<i>Acting out the script for an audience.</i>
Audience	<i>People who listen and watch the play.</i>
Stage	<i>Where the play is performed.</i>
Off Stage	<i>Any area that is not in view of the audience.</i>
On Stage	<i>Any area that is in view of the audience.</i>
Upstage	<i>On Stage direction indicating moving away from the audience.</i>
Downstage	<i>Moving towards the audience.</i>
Stage Right/Left	<i>The actor's right or left as they face the audience.</i>
Performance	<i>Acting out the play for the audience.</i>
Applause	<i>Audience clapping that says "thank you for a job well done."</i>
Bow	<i>Bending at the waist, an actor's thank you for applause.</i>
Fairy Tale	<i>A fictitious fanciful story.</i>
British Pantomime	<i>A style of performance using music, dance and comedy.</i>
Pantos	<i>A British pantomime play.</i>
Transformation	<i>To change markedly in form or appearance.</i>
Salmonella	<i>Disease causing bacteria.</i>
Rubella	<i>German measles.</i>

## About Fantasy Theatre Factory

**Fantasy Theatre Factory** is a professional *touring* theatre created in New York in 1977, by Ed Allen and Mimi Schultz, performing artists and teachers. We present theatre for **family audiences**. Our **14** touring shows appeal to pre-school, elementary, family, adult and senior audiences. Our shows cover themes of: Children's Literature, Reading, Ecology, Social Service, Black history, Dance, English, and Music. We perform in rural and inner city schools, theatre, parks, hospitals, community centers, practically everywhere. In this manner, Fantasy Theatre Factory presents more than 400 Florida programs reaching over 150,000 people each year. Our mission is to make more quality theatre programs available to more people.