The Booklist Project

Focus: Culture-Specific Booklist
Cinderella Around the World
Developed by: Terri Couto
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Cinderella Stories

From

Around the World

Terri Couto

TESL 507
Cinderella Stories From Around The World

Cinderella. Just the name evokes an image. It’s a universal story. Fairytales are woven through every culture in the world. Names may vary but the stories are constant.

I created a list of picture books that will serve as a resource to teach students about cultural diversity. With every story comes the common language of fairytales.

Additionally, fairytales teach us about heroes and heroines and how to identify a problem and solution within a story. These stories can help teach literacy, vocabulary, cross-cultural awareness and the concept of plot. Although each story I have selected has different characters and challenges, they are all similar in regards to the importance of inner beauty and the kindness that one gives to others in regards to receiving blessings in your life.

The following book list is appropriate for children ages 8-14. As previously mentioned they are picture books that can be read individually, with a partner, in small groups, or as a read aloud. The main objectives would be to use this booklist to teach cultural differences around the world along with other linguistic and literacy-based activities. The following are some websites that may be helpful in creating background knowledge.

Interactive Elements of a Story

http://www.learner.org

This is an audio version of the story Cinderella with great animations in this online book. At the end a review is conducted on different elements that make up a story. It is interactive so that students can answer questions and find out if they are correct. This helps with teaching plot.

Elements of a Story: Exposition

http://www.learner.org

The author of a story sometimes provides background information about main characters so that the reader can understand why characters act the way they do or make the decisions they make. This is helpful to help build background information for English Language Learners. Here students read four paragraphs about Cinderella and choose which one provides background information.

Most Famous Children’s Literature Characters in Indonesia

http://www.answers.google.com

On this website you can find out about many characters such as, Mouse Deer, a famous trickster of Indonesia in Malaysia; Too-too-moo, a little girl who lived on the island of Java; The Golden Snail, a cursed princess named Dewi Limaran; Prince Bandung Bondowoso, and Damura (Cinderella). Links on this site also provide a short summary for each story containing these characters.


[ISBN 10: 0-8050-7953-X]

Newberry Award winning author Paul Fleischman and illustrator Julie Paschkis take the Cinderella classic and weave it into a rich variety of different cultures tied into one book. In this book you will meet Cinderella from Mexico, Iran, Ireland, Zimbabwe and more countries are featured.

This book is ideal for teaching cultures from all over the world at once.

The following websites gives ideas for lesson plans in language arts and comparing cultures.

http://www.roundrockisd.org/docs/glass_slipper__gold_sandal.pdf

The following website gives lesson plan ideas for language arts, printable graphic organizers and a reader’s theater skit written with many cultures of Cinderella intertwined in one.

http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=21435

Reading Level: 3.0

Interest Level: K-3

Lexile: 870

WIDA Level: High Developing

ISBN: 0-06-020433-8

Pear Blossom gets her name from a beautiful pear tree that is planted in the celebration of her birth. Although she is lovely, it is the jealousy of her stepmother, Omoni that causes her to make Pear Blossom rise before the sun and cook and clean until midnight. She demands that Pear Blossom complete three tasks no human could possibly do alone. Magical animals start assisting Pear Blossom. With their help, Pear Blossom becomes a nobleman’s wife.

*Korean Cinderella* is ideal to teach Korean culture to all types of learners.

Reading Level: 4.1
Interest Level: K-3
WIDA Level: Bridging-Reaching


ISBN: 0-399-20900-X Hardcover

[ISBN: 0-399-21594-8 (Sandcastle)]

This story is at least 1,000 years older than the earliest known version in the world. The book was written during the T’ang dynasty (618-907 A.D.) It is a retold after first heard from the author’s grandmother which has been retold and written for this book.

Beautiful Chinese illustrations help the reader visualize images of Chinese culture.
The following link has vocabulary printable worksheets as well as a crossword puzzle and comprehension hand outs.


This link helps make connections to vocabulary and writing. It also has other websites you can go to for extended research on Chinese culture.

http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/~media/ArtsEdge/LessonPrintables/grade-3-4/cinderella_trilogy_yen-shen_activity_sheet.ashx

Reading Level:  4.0
Interest Level 3-6
WIDA Level:  Bridging


Kongi is a kind-hearted girl whose father marries a woman named Doki. Doki and her daughter, Potgi, are terrible to Kongi and make her do all the chores. When it is announced that there will be a great party Doki does not want Kongi to go. At her lowest point, Kongi finds that the goodness she has inside her will soon be rewarded.

This book is helpful in teaching and connecting to Korean culture.

Reading Level:  5.2
Interest Level:  K-3
WIDA Level:  Expanding to Bridging
Rhodopis is a rosy checked Greek girl. She was stolen by pirates and snatched from her home in Greece and sold as a slave. She looks different compared to the other Egyptian girl servants. This caused them to be jealous of her. Rhodopis finds help and friends from animals. Will her gift of dance save her life and make a better future for her?

The following link can help in creating lesson plans in social studies and writing. It also has links that you can research about Egyptian and Greek culture.

http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/~media/ArtsEdge/LessonPrintables/grade-3-4/cinderella_trilogy_rhodopsis_activity_sheet.ashx

Reading Level: 3.5

Interest Level: K-3

WIDA Level: Bridging

This is the story of Settareh, a beautiful but lonely maiden who lives in Persia. She is ignored by her aunts and cousins, and tortured by her terrible stepsisters. A mysterious blue jug may hold the key to unlock a magical night that could change Settareh’s life forever.
A wonderful book to teach about life and customs in Persia.

Reading Level: 4.8
Interest Level: K-3
WIDA Level: Bridging/Reaching

ISBN: 0-8234-1331-4

Maha is a daughter of a busy fisherman who does not have time to see how his new wife is treating his daughter. Maha’s stepmother makes her life miserable and treats her like a slave. Maha’s only friend is a red fish for whom she shows kindness. Little does she know, that the red fish is a magical one that will soon take away all of her misery.

This book is for teaching concepts of Middle Eastern Culture.

Reading Level: 5.9
Interest Level: K-3
Lexile: 870
WIDA Level: Expanding


You may think you know the story of a beautiful servant girl, but this version comes from the point of view of the servant girl’s Godmother. Being a washerwoman from the island of Martinique, she holds the
key to her Goddaughter’s happiness that could change her life and take her away from the hard life she has living with her stepmother and stepsisters.

This book is ideal for teaching about the lives of washerwomen and customs in Martinique.

Reading Level: 3.5
Interest Level: K-3
WIDA Level: Expanding

[ISBN: 0-06-024397-X (lib. bdg.)]

Becon, a poor boy who is treated badly by his stepmother and stepsisters, becomes a princess’s knight and shining armor after he meets up with a magical bull. This is a male version of Cinderella with a twist.

This book is great for teaching about gender roles and the Irish Culture.

Reading Level: 3.5
Interest Level: K-2
WIDA Level: Expanding

[ISBN: 0-8234-1106-0]
Ashpet lives by Eagle’s Nest Mountain. She does chores all day long for the Widow Hooper and her cranky daughters. One day she decides to help Old Granny in the woods and her life changes. Who knew being kind to others would pay off for Ashpet?

This book teaches American culture from the Appalachian Trail.

Reading Level: 3.5
Interest Level: 3-6
WIDA Level: Developing


[ISBN 0-399-21859-9]

An invisible being lingers in a village by the shores of Lake Ontario. It is rumored that he is rich, good looking and powerful. The sister to the invisible being will only let the woman who can see her brother, marry him. Can a rough faced girl compete with her cruel sisters? This is an Algonquin Indian folklore that is one of the most powerful versions of Cinderella.

This book is ideal for teaching about Native American culture.

Reading Level: 3-5
Interest Level: 5.5
WIDA Level: High Developing to Expanding


This is a Cajun version of the Cinderella tale where a gentleman had one daughter and spoiled her rotten. With the daughter’s wish, he remarried to make her happy. Little did she know that this was going to be the start of a miserable life ahead.

This New Orleans version includes French words and phrases which are defined on the bottom of each page. Creole version words are present in the book as well.

Reading Level: 5.0
Interest Level: 3-5
WIDA Level: Bridging


This version of Cinderella is also known as *The Little Glass Slipper*. Cinderseat, gets her nickname by sitting in dirt by the fireplace. Although she is good to her stepsisters they are completely awful to her. A fairy Godmother appears to make her wish come true to go to the famous ball. Her Godmother uses magic for her to be able to go, but how long will the magic lasts and what happens to Cinderella’s glass slipper?

Click on the link below to see this Super WHY! Episode.

On this site children can practice spelling and change the point of view of the story. Students have fun trying to solve the mystery.

[http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/content/2512c657-ab89-4432-b5ca-4ffab362f04e/](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/content/2512c657-ab89-4432-b5ca-4ffab362f04e/)
The following link has printable sequence cards for the story of Cinderella.


Reading Level: 5.1
Interest Level: K-5
WIDA Level: Expanding


[ISBN: 0-689-82188-3]

Damura lives in Indonesia with her wicked stepmother and stepsister. They force her to do all the chores of the house and never let her do anything. Damura meets a magical crocodile that will not only grant her wishes, but save her life.

Reading Level: 3.3
Interest Level: K-2
WIDA Level: beginning


[0-374-32247-3]

In this unusual version of Cinderella, a beautiful young woman named Trembling lives with her two sisters, Fair and Brown. She is doomed to be their servant forever until an old henwife comes along and changes everything.
The following link provides a printable short story of *Fair, Brown & Trembling*.


Reading Level: 3.7
Interest Level: K-2
WIDA Level: Expanding


This Cinderella story takes place in Mexico. Characters include a stepmother and her daughters, a faithful nurse, Adelita and a young man in search of a bride. The Prince searches for Adelita who disappears from the fiesta at midnight. This tale is lovely and funny. It is filled with illustrations with folk art from Mexico and includes a page of Spanish Phrases in the back of the book.

The following link provides information on strategies to teach Mexican Folklore to students.

http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/brdlangbarriers/1913

Reading Level: 3.5
Interest Level: 3-5
WIDA Level: High Expanding to Developing
In this book illustrations give way to rich culture with a variety of clothing, decoration and color. This book specifically looks at the style of the Blue Hmong clan. The story takes place with Joanah being our main character living with her new stepmother and stepsister. Jealous brakes out as her new stepmother sees how beautiful she is compared to her own daughter. In this story the spirit of Joanah’s mother will help her to escape the terrible life she is living.

The following link is a unit of various lessons to go with the book.


Reading Level: 4.1

Interest Level: 3.5

WIDA Level: Expanding to Bridging
The Booklist Project
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M.Ed. In TESL Program,
Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:
Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director
ncloud@ric.edu
Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908