



WHAT'S THE Story?

THE WISHBONE-ESQUE
BOOK CLUB YOU NEVER
KNEW YOU WANTED

An Introduction to Cinderella

Cinderella is one of the most widely known stories throughout the world. While the most famous is from French writer Charles Perrault, the earliest recorded telling relates to a Greek slave named Rhodopis who marries the King of Egypt. Instead of a glass slipper, Rhodopis' lost sandal brings her and the king together.

Over time, this story traveled the world. In the Maltese version, for example, Ciklemfusa attends a ball in disguise. The Chinese version tells of a young girl who escapes the abuse of her stepmother and stepsister with the help of a magic fish, a local festival, and a golden slipper found by the king.

More recognizable versions of the story were put into print in Europe and include key Cinderella elements: An orphaned girl forced into servitude by her wicked stepfamily, an invitation to a royal ball, magical transformations via a fairy godmother, a midnight curfew, lost footwear, the search for Cinderella, and the happily ever after. Even these translations had variations. The Grimm Brothers, for example, offered a darker tale than their contemporaries, ending their version with doves pecking out the stepsister's eyes as punishment for their cruelty towards Cinderella. Yikes!

Cinderella been adapted for film, television, and musical theater, and rewritten hundreds of times. More than 500 versions of the Cinderella story from Europe alone, plus hundreds more found in Africa, the Americas, and Asia. The story still dominates modern media. The titles we have recommended here are just a fraction of the available options.

What is a Retelling?

Whenever an existing story inspires a movie, book, television show, video game, or play, it goes through a process called adaptation. Retellings adapt stories by changing elements to fit a new context. For example, a retelling may change its source material to fit a new type of medium, a different genre, or a new era. Despite changes, retellings inherently carry story elements from the source material.

Retellings and adaptations have been around as long as stories have been told. Many classic myths and fables had hundreds of versions before being put into print. Retellings are part of our collective history, existing in every culture, medium, and time period.

The What's The Story Book Club seeks to understand how classic stories influence our past and continue to expand how we think, feel, and experience the world through adaptations and retellings.

Each month we choose a well-known myth, fairy tale, or piece of literature. We discuss the original, or best-known versions of the story. Then you choose a retelling that you wish to experience. Your choice can be any genre or medium, as long as the story relates to that month's source material.

As you read or watch your retelling, take note of what elements you recognize from the original story, what elements are changed, and anything you find interesting about the adaptation. We will discuss each version that our group chose when we meet again.



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YA Novels

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Cinderella Is Dead by Kalyann Bayron
Mechanica by Betsy Cornwell
Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly
Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
So This is Love by Elizabeth Lim
Ash by Malinda Lo
Throne of Glass by Sarah J Maas
Cinder by Marissa Meyer
Rogue Princess by B.R. Myers
Wolf-speaker by Tamora Pierce
Geekerella by Ashley Poston
Ash & Bramble by Sarah Prineas

Adult Fiction

A Princess in Theory by Alyssa Cole
Gilded Ashes by Rosamund Hodge
A Kiss at Midnight by Eloisa James
The Fairy Godmother by Mercedes Lackey
Phoenix and Ashes by Mercedes Lackey
Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister by Gregory Maguire
If the Shoe Fits by Julie Murphy
Charm by Sarah Pinborough
Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella by Sarah Price
Fairytale by Danielle Steel
All the Ever Afters by Danielle Teller

Kids Books

Cinderella and the Furry Slippers by Davide Cali
It's Not About the Pumpkin by Veronika M. Charles
Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China by Ai-Ling Louie
The Rough-Face Girl by Rafe Martin
Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella by Robert San Souci
Interstellar Cinderella by Deborah Underwood

Movies

A Cinderella Story
Disney's Cinderella (1950 or 2015)
Ella Enchanted
Ever After
Not Cinderella's Type
Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella (1965 or 1997)
The Slipper and the Rose
Year of the Fish

Other Media

The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen
The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang
Ninja-rella by Joey Comeau
Cinderella Ballet (found on youtube and other streaming platforms)

Awesome things that Phoenix Public Library doesn't own

Five Glass Slippers by Elisabeth Brown, et al
The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo
Fair, Brown & Trembling : an Irish Cinderella story by Jude Daley
Shard of Glass by Emily Deady
The Spinner & the Slipper by Camryn Lockhart
Moonlight and Ashes by Sophie Masson
Cinderella Boy by Kristina Meister
Bound by Donna Jo Napoli
Cinder & Ella by Kelly Oram
Cindy Ella by Robin Palmer
Five Glass Slippers by Anne Elisabeth Stengl

Another Cinderella Story (2008) movie musical
Cinderella (2021) Amazon Prime
Cinderfella (1960) movie
The Glass Slipper (1955) movie
Sesame Street: CinderElmo (1999) movie

