

# 灰姑娘



Once upon a time, there was a sweet girl whose mother had died. Her father loved her so much that he wanted her to have a new mother.



But the woman he married already had two daughters, and they were all wicked. They made the girl their servant, and they called her Cinderella because she was always covered with ashes from working near the kitchen fireplace.





She cooked and cleaned for them, and they teased her and made her sleep with the mice in the attic. They also liked to drop dried peas into the fireplace ashes just so she would have to pick them out one by one.



One day, an order arrived from the king that there was to be a festival for his son, the prince. All the beautiful young girls in the kingdom were invited.

Cinderella begged her stepmother to let her go. But her stepmother said cruelly, "Not until you have picked the dried peas from the ashes, where I dropped them!"



Cinderella called to the birds outside, and they came to her and quickly picked out all the peas. Then Cinderella went back to her stepmother and asked her again to let her go to the festival.





But her stepmother said, "Not until you have something nice to wear. Just look at yourself!" So Cinderella ran, with tears in her eyes, to her mother's grave.



She said to the hazel tree above her, "You have seen me here crying my whole life. Would you give me a golden and silver dress to wear?"

And at that, a golden and silver dress and a pair of slippers floated down from the tree. Overjoyed, Cinderella put on the dress and slippers, and the little birds helped her with her hair.



When she arrived at the festival, her stepmother and stepsisters did not recognize her. Everyone thought she was a foreign princess from an exotic land.





The prince saw her and immediately fell in love with her. He refused to dance with any other girl, and he and Cinderella danced for hours.



When at last it was late at night, the prince asked to take Cinderella home but she refused. She did not want him to see how poor she truly was. So she ran away from him.



When her stepmother and stepsisters came home, they saw her asleep in the kitchen. They laughed at her, but she dreamed on about dancing with the prince.



But when Cinderella had run away from the prince, she had lost one golden slipper. The prince was desperate to find her, so he kept the slipper.





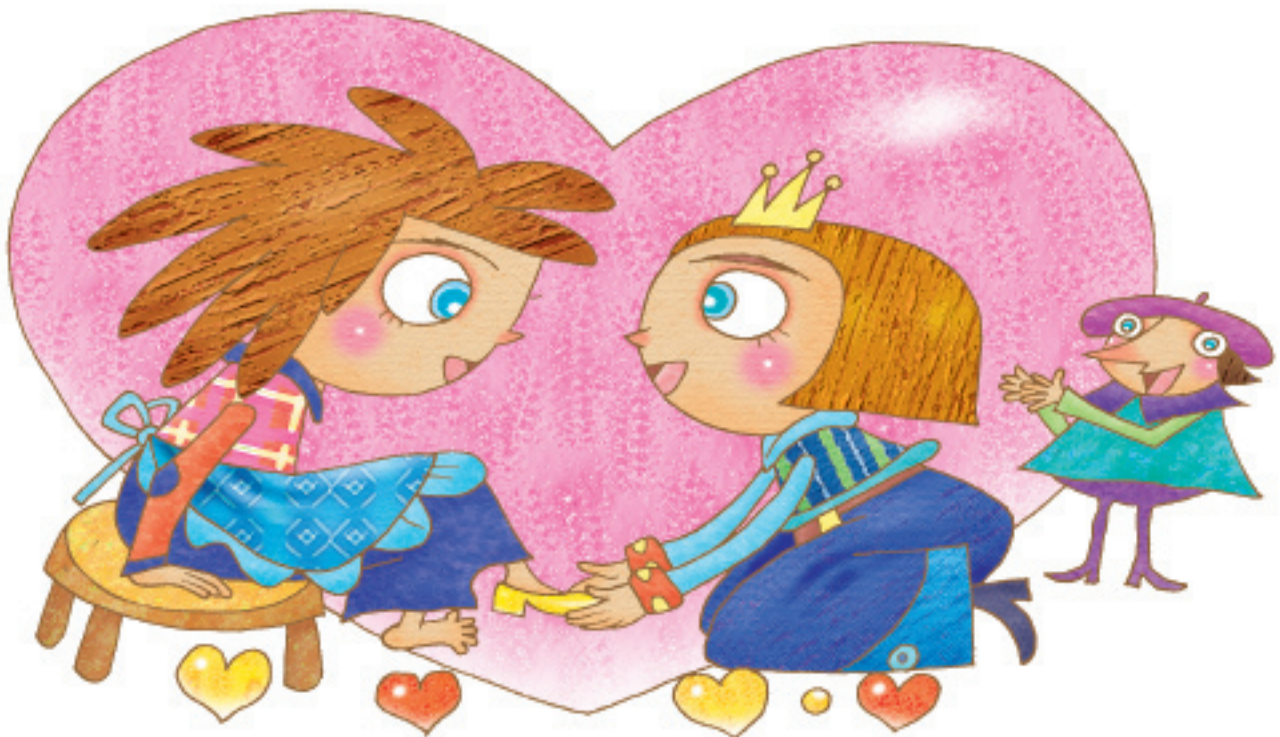
The prince said to his father, "We must find the girl whose foot fits this golden slipper." So the prince and his servants went out to search for the slipper's owner.

When they got to Cinderella's house, both of her stepsisters tried the slipper on. But their feet were too large, and try as they might, the slipper would not fit them.





At last the prince asked, "Have you no other daughters, Madam?" "Only our maid, Cinderella. But she is too dirty to try on this golden slipper," said the stepmother.



But the prince insisted, and when Cinderella put on the slipper, it fit perfectly. Then the prince looked into her eyes and recognized her.

Her stepmother and stepsisters were horrified and stomped their feet. But the prince took Cinderella, and they rode away toward the castle.





The prince and Cinderella were married, and all the birds that knew and loved her came to the wedding and sang them a wedding song. They lived happily ever after.

# Cinderella

## Characters

The Narrator

Cinderella

The Stepmother

Stepsister A

The Prince

Stepsister B



## Scene 1

Setting : *Inside Cinderella's house*

**The Narrator** : Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had just lost her mother. Her father married another woman to take care of her. But the stepmother already had two daughters of her own. The stepmother and her daughters didn't like Cinderella.

**Stepsister A** : "You are not as pretty as we are! You can only be a servant!"

**Stepsister B** : "Let's call her Cinderella because she is always covered with ashes from the kitchen fireplace."

**The Narrator** : The two sisters and the stepmother were mean to Cinderella.

**Stepmother** : "Cinderella, go cook the dinner, wash the clothes, scrub the floor, and clean the fireplace!"

**Stepsister A** : "Also, there are some beans in the fireplace. Go pick them all up!"

**The Narrator** : Cinderella did all the work without complaining. But every night, she cried before going to bed.

**Cinderella** : "I don't understand. Why are they always so mean to me? Why don't they love me?"

**The Narrator** : One day, a letter from the king arrived.

**Stepmother** : "Girls! Come here and listen to this. The king is going to hold a ball for the prince! And you are all invited!"

**Cinderella** : "Including me? Can I go too?"

**Stepsister B** : "Ha! You wish!"

**Stepmother** : "Well, if you can pick out all the beans in the ashes, then maybe I'll let you go!"

**The Narrator** : Cinderella asked the birds to help her pick all of the beans out of the ashes.

**Cinderella** : "I have finished the job. May I go with you?"

**Stepsister A** : "Look at yourself! Cinderella! Do you think you can go to the ball looking like that?"

**Stepmother** : "You cannot go until you have something nice to wear."

**The Narrator** : Cinderella ran to her mother's grave and cried.

### Scene 2

*Setting : In front of the grave*

**Cinderella** : "Why do I have to cry my whole life? Won't anybody help me?"

**The Narrator** : At that, a golden and silver dress and a pair of slippers floated down from the hazel tree.

**Cinderella** : "This must be magic!"

**The Narrator** : Cinderella got dressed and ran to the ball. Nobody recognized her. They all thought she was a princess.

### Scene 3

*Setting : In the palace*

**The Prince** : "You are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Would you dance with me?"

**The Narrator** : The prince and Cinderella danced all night long. She refused the prince's request to take her home but accidentally left a slipper at the ball when trying to run away.

**The Prince** : "Father, the only girl I want to marry is the one who can fit into this slipper."

**The Narrator** : So the prince set off to find the slipper's owner. He searched throughout the kingdom and finally got to Cinderella's house. He asked the two sisters to try the slipper on.





## Scene 4

Setting : *Inside Cinderella's house*

Stepsister A : "My foot is too big!"

Stepsister B : "My foot is even bigger!"

Cinderella : "May I try it on?"

The Narrator : Even though her stepmother and stepsisters protested, Cinderella tried the slipper on and it fit perfectly.

The Prince : "You are the only lady I want to marry!"

The Narrator : The prince took Cinderella back to the palace. They got married and lived happily ever after.



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Published by Learning Age  
Learning Age International Co., Ltd.  
6FL., No.106, Sec1, Chung Hsing Rd.  
Wu-Ku Hsiang, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan. R.O.C  
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