



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2009 Volume I: Storytelling around the Globe

Cinderella: A Cross-cultural Story

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What makes a good story, especially one that has been adapted by almost every culture in the world? I developed this unit for my third grade language arts class to teach the concept of story using story elements, the attributes of a fairy tale, and the cultural influence on a story. It is designed to last four weeks, 75 minutes each day. The unit could also be used in lower or upper elementary grades. My overall strategy in designing this curriculum unit is to use three Cinderella stories from three different cultures (Iran, China, and Africa) as a basis for cooperative learning, partner learning, individual learning, and teacher-directed learning. There will be five activities for each story: 1) compare and contrast the three different cultures, 2) map each story's elements, 3) identify the attributes of a fairy tale in each story, 4) journal writing response to a guest visit, 5) examine a different point of view in each story. As a culminating activity, my students will apply the three concepts of the unit in writing a Cinderella version of their own set in modern America.

(Developed for English and Social Sciences, grade 3; recommended for English and Social Sciences, grades 2-4)

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