

THE CINDERELLA STORY

1. _____

The Cinderella story is a famous one. Cinderella was living happily with her family when her mother died. Her father remarried. Cinderella's new stepmother and two stepsisters treated her poorly. She had to wear old clothes and work hard while the sisters wore beautiful clothes and had fun.

You know the rest of the story. A good fairy¹ helped Cinderella. She turned Cinderella's old clothes into a beautiful dress. Cinderella went to a party, and a prince fell in love with her. Cinderella left the party quickly and didn't tell the prince her name. But she did leave a glass slipper, and the prince used that to find her. Eventually, Cinderella and the prince married and lived happily ever after.

2. _____

That's one telling of the story, but the Cinderella fairy tale is found in many different countries with some differences. In an African version, for example, there is one stepsister, not two. In a version from the Philippines, a forest spirit helps the Cinderella character. Settareh, a Middle Eastern Cinderella, goes to a New Year's party. And Cinderella is not always a woman. In an Irish story, a young boy, Becan, marries a princess and lives happily ever after.

3. _____

There are also modern retellings of the Cinderella story. In one, a girl named Cindy Ella is a student at a Los Angeles high school. Her fashionable stepmother and older stepsisters care a lot about shopping and money. Cindy doesn't. When she writes a letter to her school newspaper against a school dance, she becomes very unpopular with both students and teachers. Only her two best friends—and later the school's most handsome boy—support her.

4. _____

Why is the Cinderella story so popular and found in so many cultures? There are a few reasons. First of all, it's a romantic story, which is a popular style. Also, Cinderella is a kind girl with a hard life. People want her to succeed. But maybe the most important reason is that in the Cinderella story, a person struggles, but overcomes the difficulties in the end. That's a story that everyone—boy or girl, young or old—wants to believe can happen.

Identify main ideas. Read the passage. Then write the headers below in the correct places in the reading. One is extra.

One story, many cultures

Why we love her

A present-day Cinderella

The African Cinderella

A famous fairy tale

Scan for details. Match the names (1–5) with the answers (a–e) to make true sentences. One answer is extra.

1. The African Cinderella

/be'kan/

2. Becan

/'sindi 'ele/

3. Cindy Ella

4. The Filipina Cinderella

/se'tareh/

5. Settareh

a. attends a New Year's party.

b. has a forest spirit help her.

c. has only one stepsister.

d. is a boy "Cinderella."

e. is an unpopular high school student.