



Name _____ Date _____ List #: _____

TOPIC: Comparing and Contrasting

Several Cinderellas

When Mrs. Price told her students they were going to read *Cinderella*, they all groaned, saying they already knew that story. Mrs. Price said that they certainly knew one version of *Cinderella*. She explained that *Cinderella* was a folk tale with many different versions found all over the world. She asked the students to search the library to find these different versions of the story. When the students returned to class, they were excited by all the different *Cinderella* stories they found.

Alison told a *Cinderella* story from Ireland. A kind girl has two wicked sisters. After the sisters leave the girl to do all the housework while they go to church, a henwife magically makes beautiful gowns for her as a reward for her kindness. Each Sunday, the girl stands outside the church door wearing a beautiful gown, and everyone admires her beauty. When the people try to talk to her, she rides quickly away on a white horse. At last a prince is able to grab her blue slipper when she rides by. Determined to marry the girl whose foot fits the slipper, the prince travels through the village until he finds her. However, before the prince can marry her, he has to fight all the other men in the village who also want to marry her. The prince wins the fights and marries the girl.

Kara shared a *Cinderella* story from India. In this version a young girl's mother is transformed into a goat. Her father remarries, but the new stepmother is very cruel to the girl and her brother, making them work hard and giving them little food. When the stepmother finds out that the goat is magically providing food for the children, she has the goat killed. Because the goat bones are planted in the ground, the children are still able to magically get food whenever they ask for it. One day when the stepdaughter is washing her face in the river, her nose ring falls into the water. It is eaten by a fish, which is later caught and prepared as a dinner for the king. When the king hears that a nose ring had been found in his fish, he sends word throughout the kingdom that the owner of the ring should come to the palace. The king meets the stepdaughter and marries her because of her beauty and kindness.

Andy then told the Indonesian version of *Cinderella* that he found. In this story the beautiful young girl has a cruel stepmother and stepsister who make her work very hard. One day when the girl is washing clothes in the river, she meets a magic crocodile whom she treats very kindly. Because she is so nice, the crocodile gives her a beautiful silver dress. When the prince comes to the village, looking for a girl to marry, the cruel stepsister takes the dress for herself, leaving the girl only rags to wear. She returns to the crocodile who gives her beautiful golden clothes and slippers and a horse and carriage but warns her to return all the gifts at dawn when the rooster crows. The prince sees the girl dancing in her golden clothes and falls in love. At dawn the girl runs off but loses a golden slipper. The prince searches the village for the girl whose foot will fit into the tiny slipper and, of course, finds her and marries her.

After sharing these stories, the students were surprised to find out that *Cinderella* was such a popular story, told in so many different ways and in so many countries around the world.

1. Using the three *Cinderella* versions, complete the following chart. Parts of it have been completed for you.

Country	Family treats girl cruelly.	Girl is beautiful and kind.	Girl has magic helper.	Object proves girl's identity.	There is a happy ending.
Ireland		yes			marries prince
India			goat		
Indonesia	yes			gold slipper	

2. What happens in the *Cinderella* story you knew before reading these versions? Complete the following chart based on the story you know.

Your version of <i>Cinderella</i>	Family treats girl cruelly.	Girl is beautiful and kind.	Girl has magic helper.	Object proves girl's identity.	There is a happy ending.

3. What characteristics do all versions of *Cinderella* seem to have in common?

4. Where are the biggest differences in the versions?

5. How does the Irish *Cinderella* differ in its “happy endings” from the other versions?