JAMES MARSHALL’S CINDERELLA

retold by Barbara Karlin, ill. by James Marshall
Themes: Fairy tales, Families, Humor, Magic
Ages: 3-6
Running Time: 12 minutes

SUMMARY
This classic fairy tale is retold and illustrated with spark and humor. The familiar story comes alive in this movie that will bring smiles to the faces of children and teachers alike. Cinderella’s plight at the hands of her wicked stepmother and evil stepsisters is given a light-hearted twist through colorful, exaggerated animation. This movie will provide pre-literate students with visual cues that will allow them to make inferences and predictions about characters and plots, and help build overall early reading comprehension skills.

OBJECTIVES
• Students will become familiar with the elements of a fairy tale.
• Students will compare and contrast Cinderella stories.
• Students will use what they have learned about fairy tales to write their own.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Elicit background knowledge about fairy tales. Guiding questions:
• What is a fairy tale?
• What fairy tales do you know?
• What happens in the fairy tales that you know about?
• What do you like about fairy tales? What don’t you like?

Discuss magic in fairy tales. Guiding questions:
• How do you know when something is magic? (Spells, fantastic creatures, phenomenal events).
• Can magic occur in real life? How do you know? (If students do believe in magic, do not try to debunk these beliefs, rather, help students compare their experiences with “magic” to events from fairy tale that they know.)
• How does magic usually work in fairy tales?
• Read aloud several fairy tales to the children. Tell them to listen for magical elements. Make a list or chart that identifies the magical components of well-known fairy tales. Then, encourage students to look for magical components in the movie as they watch.
• Are there any characters that are both bad and good? (If students have no answer, suggest that the father does and says both bad and good things.)
• Do any of the characters change throughout the story? How?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Read aloud non-traditional Cinderella stories. Suggested titles:
• Cinder-Elly by Frances Minters (a modern, urban Cinderella story set in New York City)
• Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella by Susan Cowell
• The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo
• The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story by Rebecca Hickox
• Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China by Ai-Ling Louie
• Cinder Edna by Ellen Jackson (a Cinderella who prefers penny loafers to glass slippers)
• Prince Cinders by Babbette Cole
• The Irish Cinderlad by Shirley Climo

As you read, use a Venn Diagram or a T-chart to compare these non-traditional stories with the movie. Discuss why the authors chose to change major elements or characters in the different stories. Guiding questions:
• How are the Cinderella characters in the stories you read different from the character in the movie?
• Are the Cinderellas in the stories stronger than the one in the movie? Why or why not?
• How does a boy “Cinderella” character differ from a girl character?
• How do Cinderella stories from different cultures vary?

Analyze the other characters in the story of Cinderella. Guiding questions:
• Who are the good characters? What do they do or say that makes them good?
• Who are the bad characters? What do they do or say that makes them bad?

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