

# PLAYBILL



*Cinderella:*  
*The True Story*

Teacher's Guide

# The Story of Making a Play

## Act I: Getting Started

First, a Play is chosen, one that is appropriate for young audiences. The Production Chairman then selects the following individuals who will help to tell the play's story:

- The Director, who plans how to tell the story by using actors who learn dialogue, songs, and dances
- The Musical Director, who teaches the actors musical numbers and orchestrates the music throughout the entire play
- The Costume Designer, who creates costumes based on the characters
- The Scenic Designer, who builds sets to make the different places in the play appear on stage
- The Prop Designer, who fills the stage with objects (such as tables and chairs) to help the actors tell their stories
- The Lighting Director, who chooses colored lights to make the sets and stage look like real places
- The Sound Engineer, who teaches the actors how to use “mics” (microphones) they will wear during the play

## Act II: The Play Comes Alive

- Actors audition for the parts in the play. They sing a song, read lines from the script, and are given a role to play.
- Beginning with rehearsals, the actors learn their lines, songs, and dances, have costumes fitted, learn to use props, and move scenery.

## Act III: On With the Play!

The members of the audience arrive and are ushered into the theatre. They take their seats and see the pianos and other musical instruments used by the musical director. An announcer says that the show is about to begin and asks the audience to practice theatre etiquette by remaining quiet while the actors are speaking and to enjoy the play by clapping for the parts they like.

After the play is over, audience members can talk to the actors and ask them about their characters or the play itself.

# Synopsis of *Cinderella*

Our story begins some two hundred years ago in a fairy tale kingdom far away.

Cinderella is a young girl of unparalleled goodness and sweet temper who is forced by her evil stepsisters to do all of the household chores. In the opening scene, the stepsisters are demanding butter for their bread. Cinderella tells them that they can not afford butter because King Gustav is taxing them too heavily.



Meanwhile, the greedy king decides that it would be profitable to combine kingdoms with his neighbor, the Baron. This can be accomplished by marrying the king's son, Prince Vilhelm, to the Baron's daughter, Urzula. But the Prince will have none of this bargain. He wants to marry for love.

The King and Queen plan a royal ball where prince Vilhelm will announce his marriage. He has until the night of the ball to find a prospective bride or he will be forced to marry the Baron's daughter

Come to our play and you will find out who marries Prince Vilhelm. We think you can guess!



# Before Attending the Play:

## Theatre Etiquette

Students who are new to the theatre need guidance on how to behave while attending a play. Some pointers you can share with your students are:

- How the audience acts is important—it helps to make the play fun for everyone. Students must not walk in the aisles while actors are present or try to touch the actor or her props. They can applaud when appropriate, but loud talking or clapping when individual actors are speaking or singing is to be avoided.
- Audience members may not use any photographic device (flash, digital, cell phone cameras).
- Please explain to the students the differences between watching live theatre, movies, and television.

## Discussion

- What are the responsibilities of the actors and the audience?
- What careers are involved in producing a play? (See “The Story of Making a Play” in this Teacher’s Guide) Do you think you would be interested in any of those jobs?
- Here is a list of some of the characters in our play: Cinderella; evil stepmother, Gertruda; evil stepsisters, Druzella and Prunella; Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother; King Gustav; Prince Vilhelm. Choose one that might be interesting to you. When you get to the theatre to see the play, notice how your character reacts to the other characters. Think about how you would describe your character to your classmates.

## Movement Activity

Introduce the activity by saying “In the play, you will see a character called a tailor. This is a person who sews.” Direct children to mime threading a needle and sewing using big and little stitches. Instruct the students to make their stitching movements as big as possible still staying in their own space.

Children can move around the classroom acting out the stitching movement.. Encourage children to move at different levels—high, medium, low, and in different directions, and at different speeds. Music may be added to accompany the movements

# After the Play:

## Discussion/Writing

- Who was your favorite character? Why? List 3-5 adjectives to describe the character you liked best.
- What was your favorite part of the play? Why? Give a brief synopsis of what happened in that scene.
- Report to the class on the character that you followed during the play. Was the character smart or foolish, nice or mean, successful or unsuccessful, greedy or generous, brave or cowardly? In what ways?
- Write a conversation you might have via email or texting with one of the evil stepsisters, Prunella or Druzella. Start with something like, “Why are you so mean to Cinderella?” and let Prunella or Druzella answer. Then you respond to their answer.
- Prince Vilhelm wants to marry a woman who loves him for who he is rather than because he is a wealthy prince. What does that mean? Name five good qualities that a person should have. An example would be kindness.
- Cinderella sings, “Give a little back when you have some to spare.” What does that mean? List three ways that people can share with others.
- You heard some strange “made up” words in the play, such as “magniferous,” “grandtastic” and “spetafulous.” Make up three funny words to describe the Fairy Godmother, the King, or one of the other characters.

## Movement Activity

Introduce the activity by saying, “During the play, you heard a song about bigger being better and taller being best. In your own space, get down as low as you can and slowly begin to grow taller. Now slowly shrink down to your starting position.” The process is repeated with the children moving as quickly as possible. Say, “Make yourself as small as possible. Begin to grow until you are as big as you can be. Now slowly go back to being very small.” Repeat the process, moving quickly. Music could be added. In partners, the children can explore moving from short to tall and from little to big. Partners may move in unison, opposition or succession. Children are encouraged to move at varying speeds.

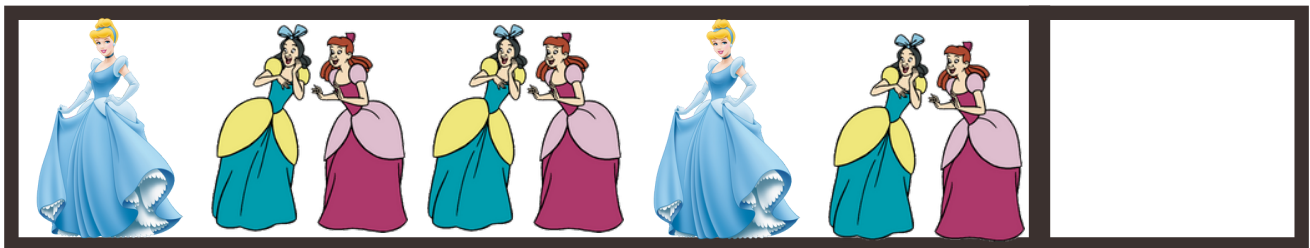
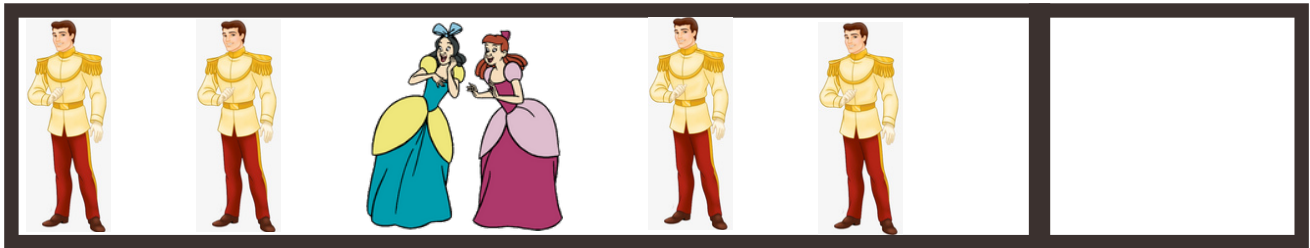
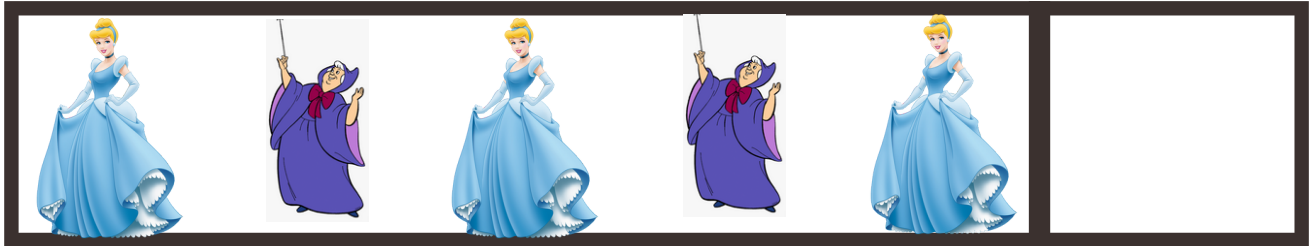
# Letter Writing

Cinderella wants to speak to the King to tell him that his tax is unfair. Can you think of any unfair rules that you know of? Write a letter to someone who might be able to help! (Ex. the school principal, the president, etc)

[illegible]


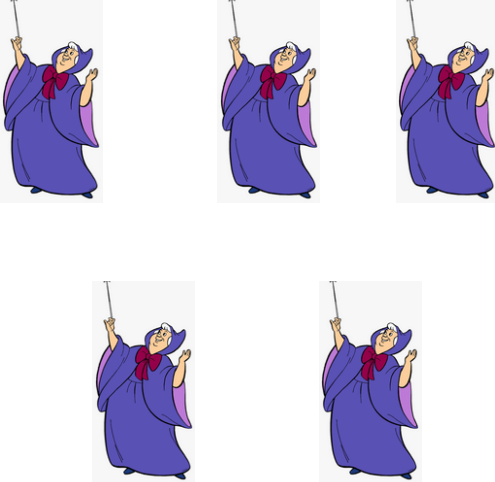
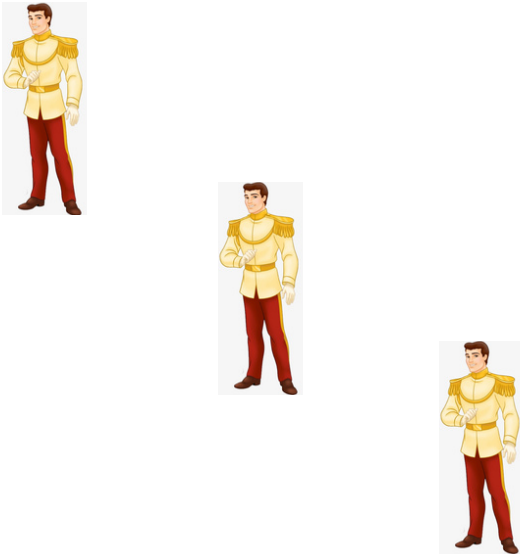
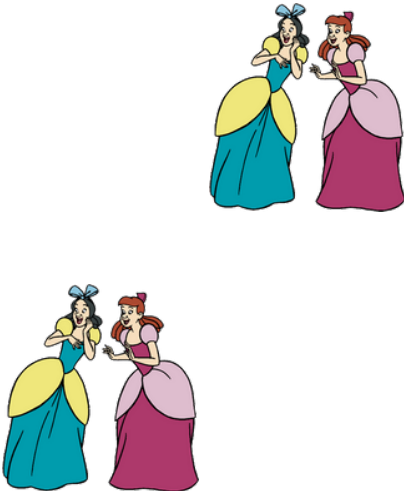
# Patterns

Fill in the missing character to complete the pattern!







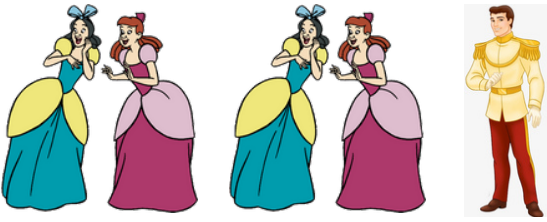
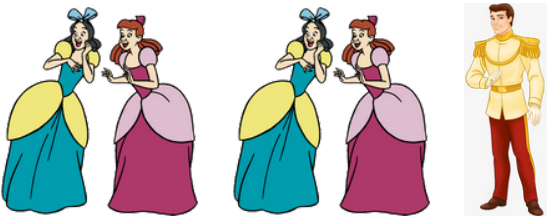

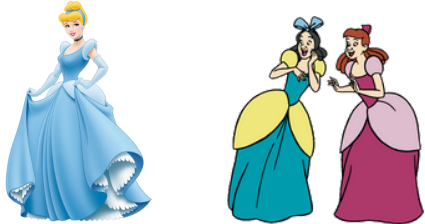
# Counting Practice

Circle the correct number of characters in each box!

	
<p>6      8      4</p>	<p>3      5      4</p>
	
<p>1      2      3</p>	<p>5      2      4</p>

# Counting Practice

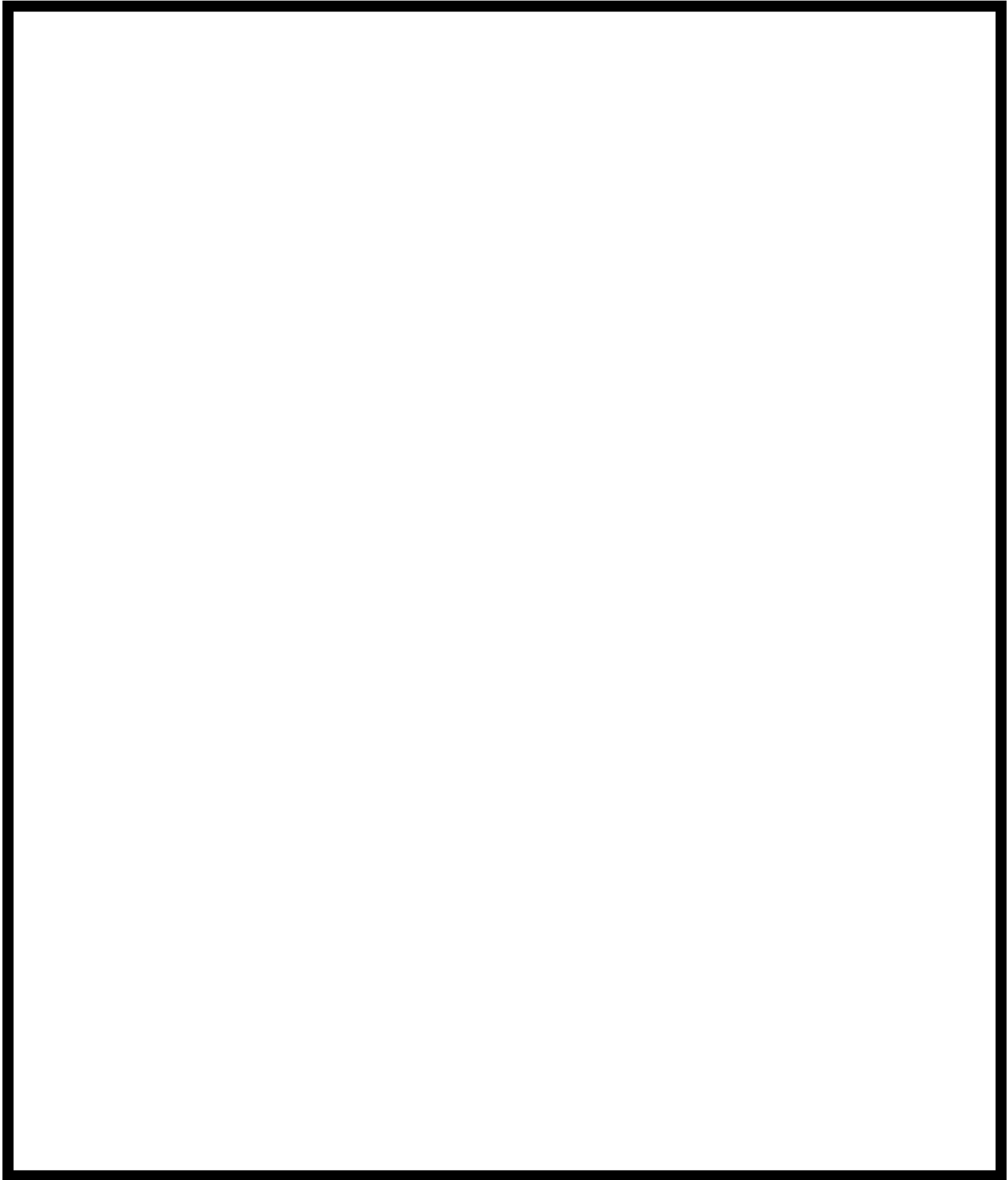
Circle the correct number of characters in each box!

 	 
7      6      4	5      7      6
 	 
13      10      8	6      5      4






Design An Invitation to the Prince's Ball!

# Dress Designer!




Cinderella goes through so much trouble to get a dress to wear to the ball! Design your own dress for Cinderella to wear.



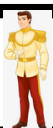
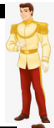
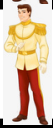

Let's Make 10!

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 10$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 10$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 10$$

# Love vs. Money

In this play, Prince Vilhem's parents, the King and Queen, want Prince Vilhelm to marry the Urzula so that they can become even wealthier and have an even bigger castle. However, Prince Vilhelm wants to marry for love. What do you think is more important, love or money? Why do you think that?

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Take a tally of your classmates to find out what they think!

Love	Money

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