

Cinderella Takes Over the Classroom: Using Dramatic Structure and Drama to Teach Story Elements to Improve Reading and Writing

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In this two to four week unit, elementary students will compare and contrast several different cultural versions of Cinderella. Selection of which Cinderella versions should be based on the origins of the students within the class. Following Common Core standards in Literature, Writing and Speaking and Listening, the children will be able to recount stories, identify story elements (character, setting, problem and solution), summarize, and engage in collaborative discussions and work groups . The students will participate in dramatic exercises to explore dramatic structure. The purpose of the unit will be for students to be able to identify the introduction, inciting incident, rising action, crisis, climax, and resolution of the fairy tale. Understanding this structure will promote better comprehension which will in turn improve writing. At the conclusion of the unit, students will work in groups to create their own versions of Cinderella, possibly choosing to change the gender of the main character to make Cinderfella. These original scripts will be performed in the classroom as plays or puppet shows.