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## CINDERELLA UNIT

Cinderella stories are found in many cultures. These are a few of the more popular ones:

France:	<u>Cinderella</u> by Perrault
Germany:	<u>Cinderella</u> by Grimm
England:	<u>Tattercoats</u>
China:	<u>Yeh-Shen</u> retold by Ai-Ling Louie
Egypt:	<u>The Egyptian Cinderella</u> by Shirley Climo
Russia:	<u>Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave</u> retold by Marianna Mayer
Native American:	<u>Little Burnt Face</u>
Vietnam:	<u>In the Land of Small Dragon</u>
Animals:	<u>Dinorella: A Prehistoric Fairy Tale</u> by Pamela Duncan Edwards

Read and compare stories. What are the common themes running through? (e.g. something bad happened to the heroine when she was a child ; the sweet nature of heroine as compared with others; does Cinderella always end by achieving something good? etc.

In what other ways are the stories similar?

How do they differ? (e.g. different ways of meeting the prince).

Who comes along to help Cinderella? (In Perrault the Fairy Godmother appears. In Dinorella someone else arrives – who?. Who helps in the other Cinderella stories?).

How does the prince find the real Cinderella? (e.g. In Perrault she loses her glass slipper. In Dinorella she does what?). What is significant about the characters of the different heroines? For example: in Perrault Cinderella just waits for *him* to find *her*. In Dinorella she is the one who saves the duke. What does this tell you about Dinorella?

In the books that you read, are the stepsisters and/or stepmother always cast out at the end? If not, what happens to them? What do you think happens to Dora and Doris at the end of Dinorella? Are you happy with this? Can you suggest any other ways they could be taught to become better people?

Write a short Cinderella story using what you know about your own background culture. For example:. What sort of a dwelling is *your* Cinderella likely to live in? What sort of tasks would her stepmother and/or stepsisters have set her? What kind of an occasion would they be invited to where they would meet the hero? How would *your* Cinderella finally be found?