

# LESSON 7 - CINDERELLA

# CINDERELLA

Once upon a time, a little girl's father married a new wife. The little girl's stepmother forced her to do the hardest and dirtiest work in the house, while the stepsisters did nothing. When her work was finally done, she would sit, tired and alone, on the hearth by the fireplace, among the ashes and cinders. *A hearth is the area in front of a fireplace. Cinders are small bits of burned wood from the fireplace.* And so she came to be called "Cinderella."



# CINDERELLA

Cinderella's stepsisters had fine rooms with soft beds and thick carpets and mirrors so large that they might see themselves at full length from head to foot. But poor Cinderella had to sleep on the floor next to the fire. Yet she bore it all patiently, and did not complain to her father, for his new wife ruled him entirely.





# CINDERELLA

One day, the king's son, the prince, announced that he was going to hold a ball. *A ball is a fancy party with dancing.* The stepsisters shrieked with excitement at the announcement. All the young ladies in the kingdom were invited to the palace for a grand evening of dancing and merriment. *The word merriment means fun.* For days the stepsisters primped in front of their mirrors and talked of nothing else.



# CINDERELLA

The stepsisters snapped at Cinderella, "You must help us get ready for the ball. Clean our shoes! Comb our hair! Hurry!"

Cinderella helped her stepsisters without complaining. Silently, however, she longed to go to the ball and imagined herself dancing in the arms of the prince.

At last the day came. The stepsisters and their mother left for the palace. Cinderella watched them as long as she could. When she had lost sight of them, she began to cry, so miserable and alone did she feel. *How does Cinderella feel? Why?*





# CINDERELLA

“Now run into the garden,” she said to Cinderella, “and bring me a pumpkin.” Cinderella went immediately to the garden, though she could not imagine what a pumpkin had to do with going to the ball. She watched her fairy godmother scoop out the inside of the pumpkin, leaving only the rind. *A rind is the tough outer skin of a fruit or vegetable.* Then the pumpkin turned into a dazzling coach lined with satin! *A coach is like a fancy carriage.* Next, with a touch of her wand she turned a big rat into a fat, jolly coachman to drive the coach.



# CINDERELLA

"Now, dear," said the fairy godmother, "bring me the mousetrap from the house." Cinderella brought the trap, which had six live mice in it. "Open the door of the trap, dear," said the fairy godmother. Then, as each mouse scurried out, she gave them a tap with her wand.





# CINDERELLA

Suddenly, Cinderella was surrounded by bright, white light as she watched the six mice turn into a fine set of six horses, all a beautiful mouse-colored gray.

"Well," said the fairy godmother with a smile, "are you pleased? Are you ready to go to the ball?"

"Oh yes!" cried Cinderella. "But . . . must I go in these dirty rags?"





# CINDERELLA

Her godmother laughed and, with a touch of her wand, changed Cinderella's tattered clothes into a glittering gown of gold and silver. *Cinderella's old clothes were torn and worn out, but her new gown was sparkling.* And on her feet appeared a pair of glass slippers, the prettiest in the world. Cinderella stepped into the coach. But before she left, her fairy godmother gave her this warning: "Do not stay at the ball after midnight, not even for a moment! When the clock strikes twelve, the coach will once again be a pumpkin; the horses, mice; the coachman, a rat; and your gown, the same old clothes you had on."

*What will happen after midnight?*



# CINDERELLA

Cinderella promised she would leave before midnight. Then, calling out her thanks, away she rode in the coach, feeling happier than she had ever felt before.

At the palace, the prince heard that a great princess had arrived, but that no one knew who she was. *Who do you think the princess is that the prince heard about?* So he went to meet her, and gave her his hand, and led her into the great ballroom filled with people. As they entered, a hush fell upon the room. The dancers stopped dancing; the musicians stopped playing. Everyone stood still just to look upon the beauty of the unknown newcomer.





# CINDERELLA

The prince asked Cinderella to dance with him. They danced together once, then twice, then again and again. Cinderella's face shone with happiness. Everyone at the ball looked on in admiration—everyone, that is, but the two jealous stepsisters, who glared at the lovely lady, though they had no idea they were glaring at Cinderella! *They were jealous of the young woman because they wished the prince would dance with them instead.*



# CINDERELLA

How quickly time slips away when the heart is happy! As Cinderella danced again and again with the prince, she heard the great bell of the palace clock begin to toll or ring: one . . . two . . . three . . .

“Oh!” she gasped. “The clock! What time is it?”

The prince answered, “Midnight.”





# CINDERELLA

Midnight! Cinderella's cheeks grew pale. She turned and, fast as a deer, ran out of the ballroom, down a long hallway, then down a long staircase. *What's wrong? Why did Cinderella start running?*



# CINDERELLA

At the foot of the staircase she stumbled; one of her glass slippers fell off! *Cinderella tripped and lost one of her glass shoes. Can you see the slipper?* But Cinderella could not stop. Already the clock had sounded its eleventh stroke. As she leapt breathlessly out of the castle into the darkness, she heard the clock sound the last stroke of midnight, and felt her smooth gown turn into the rough cloth of her real clothes.





# CINDERELLA

Her dazzling coach had turned back into a pumpkin, so she ran home alone. When she got there, she was out of breath, and climbed the stairs to her cold attic room. Then she noticed: She was still wearing one glass slipper!



# CINDERELLA

Now, when Cinderella had run from the palace, the prince had raced after her. And though he had not been able to catch her, he did find, at the bottom of the staircase, the glass slipper that had fallen off her foot.





# CINDERELLA

And that is why, the very next morning, the sound of trumpets woke the kingdom, and the prince announced that he would marry the woman whose foot fit the glass slipper. The prince sent men to try the slipper on the foot of every woman in the land.



# CINDERELLA

From house to house they went, trying the slipper on foot after foot. But on one foot the slipper was too long; on another, too short; on another, too wide; on another, too narrow.





# CINDERELLA

And so it went until at last they came to the house of Cinderella and her stepsisters. One by one, the stepsisters squeezed, pinched, and pushed, but the slipper would not fit. *Why did the stepsisters keep trying to make the shoe fit?*

Then, from the shadows, Cinderella stepped forth and said, "Let me see if it will fit me."

"You!" the stepsisters cried. "Go back to the cinders where you belong!"



# CINDERELLA

But one of the prince's men said that he had orders to try the slipper on every woman in the kingdom. He placed the slipper on Cinderella's foot—and it fit perfectly! The stepsisters' mouths dropped open in astonishment. And they were even more shocked when, from her pocket, Cinderella drew forth the other glass slipper.

*Why were the stepsisters surprised?*





# CINDERELLA

And now the stepsisters recognized Cinderella as the beautiful lady they had seen at the ball. They threw themselves at her feet and begged her pardon for all of the ways they had treated her so badly. Cinderella was so kindhearted that she forgave them and embraced them.



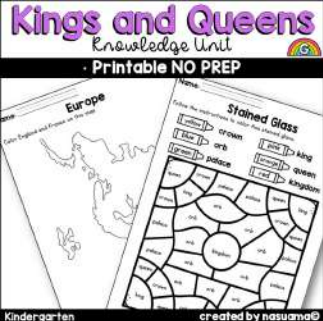


# CINDERELLA

Later, after Cinderella married the prince, she even invited her stepmother and stepsisters to live at the palace. And there, Cinderella and the prince lived happily ever after.

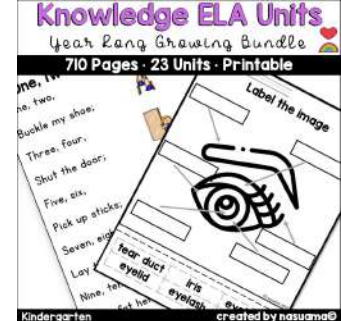






# KINGS AND QUEENS

# BUNDLE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cinderella Comprehension

1. Who is Cinderella?





2. Who helps Cinderella to go to the ball?





3. What is using the prince to find her?





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DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?