

## 2005- 2006 Cinderella Lesson Plans

The following are given as “jumping off” points for students attending the Leatherstocking Ballet’s performance of *Cinderella*. As a means to make each unit suitable for individual students or classes, feel free to modify as needed.

If you have suggestions or need assistance in adapting any lesson, or if you have an idea for a lesson and would like to collaborate on it for your students, please do not hesitate to call Jamie Sitera- Education Specialist and Artistic Director (Leatherstocking Ballet).

### **Elementary Level**

#### **ELA-**

Using the NYS standards in ELA that address reading and listening for information and knowledge, begin this unit by reading the story of Cinderella. Any version is acceptable. Play the music written by Prokofiev in the background.

The teacher in conjunction with students makes a list of the characters in the story.

Have students select 5 or 6 of the most important characters they read about in the story.

#### *Students Grade Preschool through 2:*

The teacher will have students list a few of the qualities of each character named above. Students will then create a “face” that epitomizes the character.

Students will add a movement to the face. Teachers may also aid students by suggesting movements.

Have students draw the character as one of the following:

- a car
- a type of plant
- an animal
- anything the teacher suggests

Now show the students this Disney version, dividing viewing time into 20-30 minute sections. At the end of each section, have students compare and contrast the characters as they are presented in each version.

#### Performance-

Review the character analysis before attending the performance.

Remind students to watch the performance so they will be able to tell how the characters might be the same or different in the live version.

Add to your character analysis by comparing/contrasting the live performance to the book and video.

#### *Students Grade 3-5/6*

Introduce students to the types of literature analysis tools such as a Venn diagram, story map or character/plot diagram.

Students should pick 5-6 characters and list the characters name and a few traits for each one.

Working in groups of 2-5 students, create a movement that compliments the trait(s) of each character. Teacher may suggest movements to help students initially.

Now show the students this Disney version, dividing viewing time into 20-30 minute sections. At the end of each section, have students compare and contrast the characters as they are presented in each version and record them on their diagram of choice.

Performance-

Review the character analysis before attending the performance.

Remind students to watch the performance so they will be able to tell how the characters might be the same or different in the live version.

Add to your character analysis by comparing/contrasting the live performance to the book and video.

### **Science**

Students can be allowed to use “creative” science along with technology according to their own level.

Have students construct a carriage from whatever materials they/you choose.

Younger students may use blocks, a parachute hung over suspended hula hoops, or a tent on a makeshift trolley (a push cart, shopping cart, or child's wagon may work well). Older students may design one on the computer, assessing how much and what kind of building materials they may need.

To further the challenge, have the students motorize this for ease of use on a stage!

You may want to have a science/technology challenge contest to see who builds the best one.

### **Social Studies**

Check out the following websites:

[http://classicalmusic.about.com/od/balletsynopses/a/cinderella\\_p.htm](http://classicalmusic.about.com/od/balletsynopses/a/cinderella_p.htm) The Cinderella Ballet: a Synopsis of the Cinderella Ballet

<http://classicalmusic.about.com/od/classicalmusic101/tp/topballets.htm> Top 7 Most Popular Ballets of All Time

The story of *Cinderella* takes place in Europe at a time when castles and knights were the norm. You may want to look at pictures of castles that were built in different eras. Gothic castles were different than those of earlier times. Try to have students decide what kind of castle Cinderella might have lived in with the Prince.

### Grades K-2

- Have a medieval dress up day
- Cook/eat in medieval style
- Explore some jobs that were at that time- Blacksmith, potter, silversmith, seamstress, scullery maid
- Look at a globe of the world during medieval times- explore what America looked like on this map

### Grades 3-6

- Discuss with students what the structure would look like- how and what kind of rooms would be in each home- ex- maid's chambers, pantry, wine cellar, cook's kitchen, nursery, library, etc.
- Construct a castle out of whatever materials you choose (cardboard, sugar cubes, blocks, graham crackers/cookies) to display
  - Create Cinderella's home (smaller than the Prince's castle)

### Grades 7-9

Teacher led discussion-

What modern videos/musicals relate to the cultural environment that carry the same storyline? (Musical-*My Fair Lady*, Video- *Maid in Manhattan*, *It Could Happen to You*)

How has the culture changed or remained the same?

### Grades 10-12

Take the *Cinderella* story and update it to a city in the U.S. Give the cultural, social, and geographic ideas that would be present. Ex.- Cinderella in NYC- She might live in Bed/Sty and this Prince might live in Midtown Manhattan and be a corporate CEO.

### **Math**

**\*\*\* Frank- I need to check some of these facts out**

*Using the following facts, arrange them as math problems.*

- The Stanley stage performance space is approximately 55' L x 36' W
- The orchestra pit raises and lowers at a rate of \_\_\_\_ feet per second
- It takes about 15 yds of net to make 1 classical tutu and takes about 40 hours of sewing time
- There are over 100 rhinestones in one crown
- The backdrop measures 65' L x 17' H
- Cinderella's dress is a size 4 junior
- Over 15 schools attend our student performance with a total of 2200 students at the show
- About 700 people attend our public performance with ticket prices between \$9-\$25
- It takes the Stanley crew of 6 plus 12 Leatherstocking Ballet volunteers 3 days for approximately 14 hours each day to prepare the stage and dressing rooms for the 2 performances
- There are parts for over 107 dancers in the production of Cinderella
- It takes approximately 1 hour to put on the make-up for 12 mice

- It takes about 7 yds of material to create each of the Step sister dresses
- The staircase reaches a height of 12' and has \_\_\_\_stairs
- Students rehearse every Friday for 4 hours from September 16 until March 31 for a total of 25 Fridays
- The seamstress team spends over 1000 hours creating a sewing costumes and props
- Over 5000 hair pins will be used the week of performance
- Over 100 jars of cold cream will be used to take make-up off after the rehearsals and shows are over
- It takes a crew of 25 over 4 hours to take the sets down and gather up the costumes
- The drycleaning and laundering bill for the week of the performance is about \$500.00
- Costume rental fees run about \$500 to rent about 10 costumes
- Over \_\_\_\_yds of thread will be used to create costumes
- There are over 30 volunteers that work from May until April to prepare our performances- creating posters, painting the sets, advertising, booking schools, making costumes, rehearsing, creating the program, and many other jobs

Some samples are given.

#### Preschool- K

Count how many mice are in the show?

How many rows did our class take up in the Stanley Theater?

How many times did the curtain close?

(If you get to go backstage- How many dressing rooms are there?)

#### Grades 1-2

There are 13 petal costumes. Only 9 students tried out for this part. How many costumes will not be used in the performance?

#### Grades 3-6

Students rehearse every Friday for 4 hours from September 16 until March 31 excluding vacation days. How many rehearsals are there in total? How many hours do the dancers rehearse on Fridays from September until March?

#### Grades 7-9

If the seamstress needs to create 7 tutus, how much net and thread will it take? If it takes 40 hours to create (1) tutu, how much time should she allow to complete all 7? At a rate of \$22.00 per hour, how much should the ballet company be prepared for the completed job?

#### Grades 10-12

The scenery size needs to be adjusted to allow for the enlarged Stanley stage area. If the present backdrop measures 55' L x 17' H and the new stage area is 17% bigger, how much more canvas will need to be purchased to accommodate the new stage size? There are 107 performers in *Cinderella*. There are 10 dressing rooms. Seven of the rooms measure 14' x 18', one measures 20' x 20', and two measure 10' x 12'.

Of the groups, the ages for each group are:

Children's roles (only in this show and rehearse beginning in January)

\_\_\_ 5-8 year old- girls

\_\_\_ 5-8 year old- boys

\_\_\_ 8-11 years olds- girls

\_\_\_ 8-12 year old- boys

Company members- (full members who rehearse beginning in September)

\_\_\_ 8-12 year old boy Company members

\_\_\_ 8-12 year old girl Company members

\_\_\_ 13-18 years old boy Company members

\_\_\_ 13-18 years old girl Company members

Guest artist

1 Male