Cinderella

Charles Perrault version

1. Stepmother makes the girl do all the chores
   1. The poor girl had to sleep in the garret, upon a wretched straw bed, while her sisters lay in fine rooms with inlaid floors, upon beds of the very newest fashion, and where they had looking-glasses so large that they might see themselves at their full length.
2. When she had done her work, she used to go into the chimney corner, and sit down among the cinders, hence she was called Cinderwench. The younger sister of the two, who was not so rude and uncivil as the elder, called her Cinderella.
3. Cinderella helps the stepsisters with preparations for the ball
4. Cinderella cries
5. Fairy godmother comes:
   1. “well, be but a good girl, and I will see that you go.”
   2. Pumpkin, emptied out = gilded coach
   3. 6 mice = horses
   4. 3 rats = coachmen
   5. 6 lizards = footmen
   6. Clothes = Her godmother simply touched her with her wand, and, at the same moment, her clothes were turned into cloth of gold and silver, all decked with jewels. This done, she gave her a pair of the prettiest glass slippers in the whole world.
6. Everyone admires Cinderella at the ball
7. She comes back, then she goes the next night and forgets to leave by midnight
8. Prince declares he will marry the woman whose foot fits the glass slipper
9. The gentleman who was sent to try the slipper looked earnestly at Cinderella, and, finding her very handsome, said it was but just that she should try, and that he had orders to let every lady try it on.
10. Cinderella marries the prince
11. Cinderella gives her sisters a home in the palace and lets them marry 2 lords of the Court.

Brothers Grimm version

1. The two sisters are “fair in face but foul at heart”
2. Cinderella plants a hazel branch next to her mother’s grave. It grows into a tree and a bird comes and nests there, and it talks to Cinderella (and helps the prince find her later)
3. 3 day feast to choose prince’s bride announced by king
4. Stepmother gives Cinderella impossible task of picking two dishes of peas out of the ashes, but Cinderella completes them by calling on her bird friends
   1. Well, she’s still ditched in the end
5. Cinderella cries: "Shake, shake, hazel-tree, gold and silver over me!" Bird brings her a dress
6. Twice Cinderella eludes the prince by jumping into the tree and escaping the other way
7. The 3rd time she loses her slipper, so the prince says she will marry its owner
8. The eldest can’t fit in it, so she cuts her toe off. The bird tattles on her on their way back to the palace so she is sent back.
9. The younger stepsister, her mom squeezes her heels into the shoe, but again the bird gives her away.
10. The Cinderella wears it, puts on the other slipper from her pocket, and they go off and marry yay

Potential characters:

Cinderella 🡪 one of the spades under the queen’s command?

Stepmother

Prince (super clingy? Or a playboy? Or pretends to be a playboy while trying to thwart the Queen’s plans? Actually the queen of heart’s son?)

King

1st stepsister

2nd stepsister (actually the narrator of the first story?)

Original story:

When Elizabeth’s (Cinderella’s original name) mother dies, her father remarries a beautiful woman, who brings into the house her two daughters. Both of them are older than Elizabeth, but they all get along rather well as little girls tend to do. Elizabeth was an only child, but brought up as a shy but nice little girl.

The eldest, named Rachel, likes to lord it over the other two that she is in fact, the oldest girl among them. However, she is not the brightest bulb in the bunch and tends to let her emotions rule over her logic. She pretty much does whatever she feels like doing, and tends to be entirely possessive and protective of her sisters. She seems to have an impression that they are her responsibility, and does her best to fulfill that duty and always seeks confirmation from Elizabeth and their other sister, Clara, that Rachel is, in fact, a dependable “woman.” The other two always encourage her that yes, she is their awesome oldest sister.

The younger, named Clara, is the cleverest of the family. She quite hates to read, like everyone else that shares her genes, but is quick-witted and completely at ease when navigating the social circles of the courts. She has a sharp tongue, but knows how to use it like butter to flatter people and get what she wants. She finds Rachel and Elizabeth exasperating to a certain extent, because both of them are pretty gullible and emotional as a whole, but because of this she feels a duty to protect them from harm.

When their father dies, the stepmother finds out that they cannot access their family fortune until Elizabeth reaches her 18th year of age. Because of the girls’ extravagant lifestyle, their family quickly falls onto hard times. Clara decides that they need to start conserving money to survive, so they send off their servants to different workplaces and decide to try to take care of the property themselves until Elizabeth can access her fortune. The stepmother is pretty outraged that her husband would betray her like this, and tries to find out a way to get the fortune sooner. In the meantime, the 3 sisters go about trying to run the house. Rachel is tasked with managing their personal finances. Clara takes it on herself to run the family business and take care of the private properties belonging to them. Elizabeth, for lack of better things to do, takes on the physical chores of the house. She is surprisingly fit, and soon gets the hang of it. Perhaps as a way to deal with their unfortunate circumstances with light-hearted humor, Clara gives them all nicknames: Rachel is Rattles – for the sound their empty coin banks make – Clara is Clover – for all the three-leafed weeds that are growing over their failing crop fields – and Elizabeth is Cinderella – for all the times that she has messed up cleaning and gotten dust and ash all over her clothes.

One day, the Prince announces that he is hosting a ball to choose his bride. For lack of a better alternative, the stepmother decides one of the sisters Rachel and Clara should try to marry him, because then they would have access to the royal fortune and their lives would be better for the next 2 years, since Cinderella is still only 16 years old. The sisters agree; however, things start going wrong when Elizabeth sneaks into the palace during the first night (they didn’t have enough money to buy her a dress) and falls in love at first sight with the prince. She begs her family to let her marry him instead, but the sisters refuse, saying that if that happened, then since Cinderella is still underage, the rights to her fortune would by default fall to the prince and not to the family.

Cinderella knows they are right, but she is sad nevertheless. Then on the second night of the ball, her godmother appears out of the blue. She declares herself a Fay, and because Cinderella’s wish was so intense, she will grant Cinderella’s wish for a price. Cinderella agrees, and so the godmother gets Cinderella a beautiful dress and a fast carriage. In return for this magical favor, the godmother demands….something.

Everything after that happens according to Cinderella’s dreams. The Prince falls in love with her and proposes marriage, presenting her with a pair of beautiful glass heels to seal the deal. However, when her sisters see this, they try to stop her because then their entire noble family will cease to exist, because all the rights to that family’s titles and fortunes belong to Cinderella, and since she is underage, her guardian (aka prince) will take charge of it until she reaches of age. However, Cinderella tells them not to worry, as she will have it back by the time she is 18.

The sisters realize they cannot stop her and agree to bless her marriage. However, 2 years later when Cinderella is set to claim her fortune, they realize that the King has been getting Cinderella to sign papers that confer all the titles and fortunes to the royal family, leaving nothing for her adopted family. Cinderella realizes this too late and tries to provide for her family in some way, namely by marrying her stepsisters off to well-endowed nobles.