

LEVELED BOOK • 0

Cinderello



Written by Evan Russell
Illustrated by Alex Lopez

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

How is this story the same as the fairy tale *Cinderella*? How is it different?



There was once a young boy named Mateo who dreamed of becoming a great baseball player. He lived happily with his mother and father in a small, quiet town. His father taught Mateo to **pitch** a baseball. Mateo wanted to be like his hero, Fernando Valenzuela, a famous pitcher.

One day, Mateo's father passed away, and Mateo and his mother were left all alone. Mateo's mother had to work long hours in the local factory. Mateo was often lonely, but he kept his spirits up by playing baseball and practicing his pitching.

When the factory owner and Mateo's mother decided to get married, Mateo was overjoyed!





The factory owner had twin sons who were two years older than Mateo. Mateo was so excited to have two new brothers. The twins, Primo and Guapo, were spoiled and mean and greedy, and they decided they didn't like Mateo.

Mateo asked them if they wanted to play baseball in the park.

"We would never play baseball with a little runt like you," Primo said.

"Actually, we'll never play with you at all!" added Guapo.



Mateo's stepfather often traveled, and Mateo's mother usually went with him. Mateo and the twins stayed at home with the cook. The lazy twins forced Mateo to do all of their **chores**.

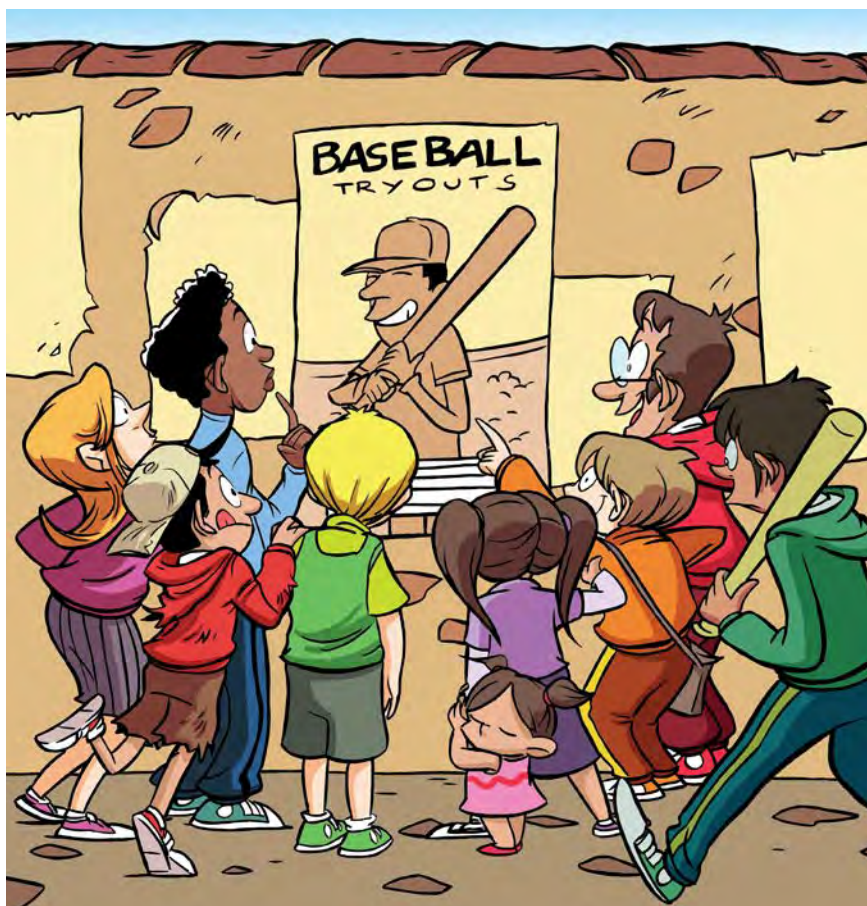
"Look at him work while we get to play baseball!" cried Guapo happily.

"Just like Cinderella," said Primo.

Guapo replied, "I know, let's call him *Cinderello*!"

So the twins teased and bullied Mateo, but he put up with it.

One day, exciting news spread through town. The coach of the national Little League team was coming to town. He was holding **tryouts** to find the most talented players.



Mateo was thrilled. He knew that his pitching was something special, and he hoped to impress the famous coach.

As Mateo practiced his pitch, Primo laughed, "You're too much of a runt to try out. You don't even have a uniform!"

"Father, please tell him it would be a waste of everyone's time!" said Guapo.

Their father agreed, and he forbade Mateo from attending the tryouts.





Mateo was crushed. He hid under the bleachers the next day, watching the other boys practice. Suddenly, he heard a woman's voice softly calling his name.

It was the lady from the taco cart.

"How do you know my name?"

Mateo asked.

"I don't just make tacos," she said,
"I am also your fairy godmother."

“Why aren’t you out there playing?”
she asked.

Mateo hung his head. “My stepfather
won’t allow me. Even if he did, I don’t
have a uniform,” he said.



She waved
her magic
spatula, and
in an instant
Mateo was
transformed.

Mateo grinned.
“Awesome!
Valenzuela’s

jersey and cool pink shoes!”

“Now you can attend the tryouts, and no
one will recognize you,” she said.

“But you must go home the instant tryouts
are over,” warned the fairy godmother.



Disguised in his uniform, Mateo made his way to the first tryout.

The coach told Mateo that he could try pitching, and he quickly struck out every boy.

“That’s what I call a pitcher!”
the coach cried.



Later that afternoon, the coach put the boys into two teams for a game and chose Mateo to pitch. Mateo proceeded to throw a perfect game, and everyone, even the twins, was thrilled. With a superstar like this, surely their team would win the Little League World Series!



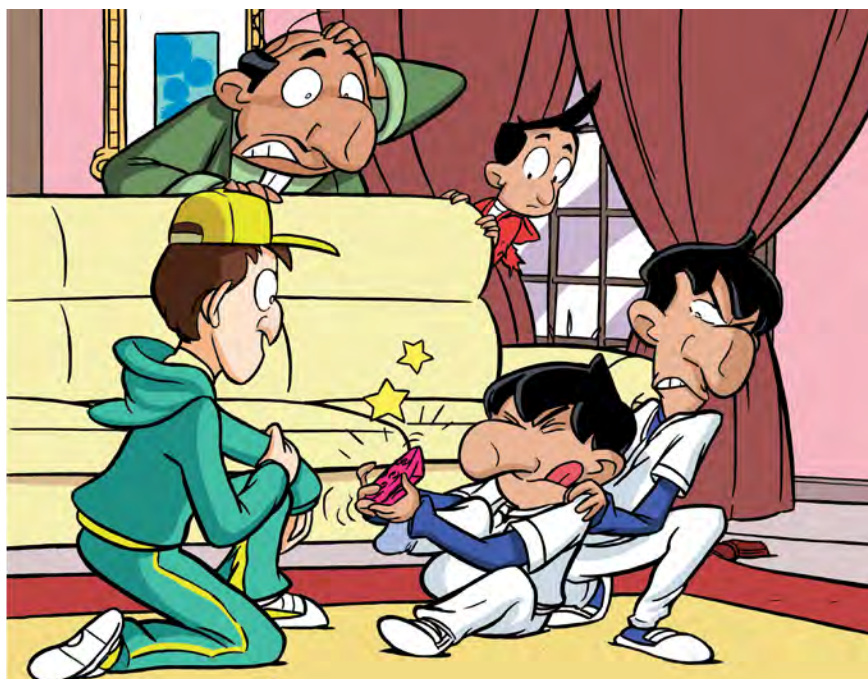
The instant the game ended, Mateo tried to leave, but the boys and the cheering **spectators** mobbed him.

In the scuffle, Mateo lost one pink shoe. When he finally broke free and fled home, he felt his uniform vanishing into thin air. He looked down to see that he was dressed like an ordinary boy, except with only one ragged shoe. The other foot was bare.

The coach was left holding the pink shoe. "I must find that fantastic kid," he said.

The next day, the coach went door to door, visiting every home in the town. Wherever he found a boy, he had him try on the pink shoe. It fit no one.

Finally, the coach arrived at Mateo's house. The twins almost knocked each other over in a rush to try on the pink shoe. No matter how hard the boys wriggled their toes and pushed, it was still too small. Then, the coach spotted Mateo.





“Come here, my boy, and try on this shoe,” the coach said.

The twins **guffawed**, but when the shoe slipped on perfectly, they both gasped, “Cinderello!”

Mateo looked at the twins and said, “My name is Mateo.”

“Mateo will be our captain, and he will lead us to victory!” the coach announced.

Turning to the brothers, the coach said, “And you two will be our towel boys!”

Glossary

- chores** (*n.*) small jobs or tasks that must be done regularly (p. 6)
- guffawed** (*v.*) laughed suddenly and loudly (p. 15)
- pitch** (*v.*) to throw a ball to a batter in a game of baseball or softball (p. 3)
- spectators** (*n.*) people who watch an event without taking part (p. 13)
- transformed** (*v.*) changed in form or appearance (p. 10)
- tryouts** (*n.*) events where activities are used to test how good people are in athletics or performing (p. 7)

Words to Know

chores

guffawed

pitch

spectators

transformed

tryouts

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Level O Leveled Book

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Written by Evan Russell

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Correlation

LEVEL O

Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

Cinderello

A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Book

Word Count: 803

Connections

Writing and Art

Draw a picture and write your own version of *Cinderella*.

Social Studies

Locate Mexico on a map or globe. Describe its location and three things you notice about the country to a partner.



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