Cinderella

Teacher’s Resource Pack
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History of Pantomime

Pantomimes date back to Ancient Greece. More recent pantomimes originated from the Italian *commedia dell’arte*, where travelling troupes would present improvised comedy with moral lessons.

Three hundred years ago, London saw the first British pantomimes, based on classical stories with elements of opera, ballet and comedy. For the past two hundred years, pantomime has become bigger and better, featuring more as a Christmas holiday event for families.

Modern pantomime has become a true British family Christmas institution, incorporating song, dance, rhymes, comedy and audience participation. The stories are almost always based on classic children’s stories and fairy tales.

Along with bags of audience participation, there are a number of familiar things characters say. Audiences are encouraged to “boo and hiss” when evil characters come on stage, shout “He’s behind you” when characters are hiding, and when a character shouts out “Oh no it isn’t” the audience responds “Oh yes it is”.

Activity 1: Here are some traditional pantomime catchphrases that have been mentioned in the history of pantomime, can you un-jumble the catchphrases:

“Do shine by hue”
“I so shy tie!”
“I, oh boss!”
“This notion”
Story of Cinderella

Cinderella is a folk tale embodying elements of unjust oppression and triumphant reward. Thousands of variants are known throughout the world. The title character is a young woman living in unfortunate circumstances that are suddenly changed to remarkable fortune.

The word “Cinderella” has, by analogy, come to mean one whose attributes were unrecognized, or one who unexpectedly achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect.

Cinderella debuted as a pantomime on stage at the Drury Lane Theatre, London in 1904 and at the Adelphi Theatre in London in 1905.

Hackney Empire’s Cinderella is set in the Kingdom of Harknee-On-The-Lea, where Prince Charming is looking for love before he ascends to the throne. Cinderella’s father Baron Hardup has recently married Countess Anastia – and she’s moved into Hardup Hall with her ghastly daughters Queeniqua and Victiqua. They all seem determined to make life trickier for Baron Hardup’s daughter Cinderella, but fortunately Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother is on hand with a little magic to help out...
Meet the characters

Cinderella

Cinderella is the daughter of Baron Hardup, who is forced to work for her Wicked Stepmother the Countess Anastia, and Stepsisters Queeniqua & Victiqua (Queenie & Vic).

Cinderella is a hardworking, smart, kind, thoughtful and beautiful girl.

Buttons

Buttons is a happy go lucky chap who is Cinderella’s best friend and helps her overcome her Stepmother’s and Stepsisters’ (Queenie & Vic) bad behaviour.

Whenever he asks you ‘Are you there?’ you say ‘YEAH!’
Meet the characters

**Queeniqua & Victiqua**

Queeniqua & Victiqua (Queenie & Vic) are Cinderella’s Stepsisters and the daughters of Countess Anastia.

They are very vain and selfish but also quite stupid and often very mean to Cinderella.

Don’t forget to ‘boo’ Queenie & Vic when they are on stage!

**Fairy Godmother**

Cinderella’s Godmother is a magical fairy who looks after Cinderella and helps her make it to the ball.

Her magic can go from designing the most glamorous dresses to converting a pumpking into a flying horse carriage.

You may also call her FG.
Activity 2: Can you help Cinderella make it home before the clock strikes midnight?
Introduction to Harknee-On-The-Lea

Harknee-On-The-Lea is a kingdom surrounded by forest. It is the home of Hardup Hall and Prince Charming’s Palace. Countess Anastia has recently moved here with her daughters after her marriage to Cinderella’s father, Baron Hardup. Prince Charming is about to give the kingdom something to get excited about as he announces a glittering Ball.

Activity 3: Here are some of the characters you’ll meet, can you match the name to description of the character? The first one has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARON HARDUP</td>
<td>A mischievous, magical horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAPTON</td>
<td>Smooth talking, soon-to-be-king</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANDINI</td>
<td>The Prince’s right hand man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARMING</td>
<td>Cinderella’s father</td>
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Learn the words to Clapton’s song!

Clip-clop Clapton the wonder horse
He’s our favourite horse of course

Clap for Clapton (clap!)
Give a neigh (neigh!)

He’s our tip-top clip-clop Clapton
Hip-hop-hip hooray!
Colour me in!
Activity 4: Word search

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE CRYPTIC WORDSEARCH ABOVE
They might be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonal!

BALL
FAIRY
MICE
PUMPKIN

BROOM
HORSE
PANTOMIME
STEPSISTER

CINDERELLA
MAGIC
PRINCE
Answers

Activity 1

He’s behind you // Do shine by hue
Boo, Hiss! // I, oh boss!
Oh yes it is! // I so shy tie!
Oh no it isn’t // This notion

Activity 4

Activity 3

BARON HARDUP
A mischievous, magical horse

CLAPTON
Smooth talking, soon-to-be-king

DANDINI
The Prince’s right hand man

CHARMING
Cinderella’s father