

# Cinderella

Once upon a time there was a kind and beautiful young girl called Cinderella. Sadly Cinderella had two mean and ugly sisters who were jealous of Cinderella's beauty.

Cinderella was unhappy because her sisters were very unkind to her. They gave her raggy old clothes to wear and made her do all the nasty housework.



At night, she had to sleep in the kitchen, curled up in front of the fire amongst the cinders.

Early one morning, an announcement was made that there was to be a Grand Ball at the palace. All the important families in the land received an invitation, including Cinderella and her sisters. Cinderella was very excited.

Cinderella was wondering what she could wear to the ball.

But, at that moment, her sisters came in and said "You can't go to the ball. You'll be too busy helping us get ready!"

Cinderella was kept busy. First sewing, next washing and after that, ironing her sisters' ball gowns. Finally the time came for them to leave. Cinderella watched their coach disappear into the night and wished she could have gone with them. Alone, by the kitchen fire, she began to cry.

Suddenly, Cinderella heard a voice. "Don't cry my dear, I am your fairy godmother and you shall go to the ball."

To her amazement, when Cinderella looked up there was a round little woman hovering by her head. Next, Cinderella's fairy godmother asked her to run into the garden and bring one large pumpkin, three rats and four mice.

By the next morning the straw was gold.  
With one wave of her magic wand, the pumpkin became a splendid

shining coach. The rats became coachmen and the mice  
turned into a team of magnificent horses.

After that, Cinderella's fairy godmother touched her raggy old  
clothes with her magic wand and they instantly became  
a beautiful ball gown. Her hair gleamed like silk  
and on her feet were a pair of dainty glass slippers.

She truly looked like a princess.

Finally, it was time for Cinderella to step into the coach.

But before it pulled away, the fairy warned her, "You must be  
home by the time the clock strikes twelve – not a moment later –  
because the magic only lasts until midnight."

As soon as she arrived at the ball, all the music and dancing  
stopped for a moment whilst everyone stared at her beauty –  
even

her two ugly sisters. But no-one recognised her. All evening  
Cinderella danced with the Prince. He was so enchanted with her  
that he never left her side. She had such a wonderful time that  
she almost forgot her fairy godmother's warning.

Suddenly, the clock began to chime. It was midnight! Cinderella  
ran out of the palace losing one glass slipper on the way.

The Prince couldn't understand where she had gone. When  
he found the glass slipper he decided that every girl in the  
land should try it on, promising to marry the girl whose foot  
it fitted.

At last, the courtiers brought the glass slipper to the house where  
Cinderella lived. The ugly sisters both tried it on, squeezing and  
pushing their toes for all they were worth. But their feet were far  
too big.

Finally, it was Cinderella's turn to try the slipper. It was a perfect fit! Suddenly, Cinderella's fairy godmother popped into the air above Cinderella and touched her with a wand. To everyone's amazement, she instantly became a beautiful Princess again!

Cinderella and the Prince were married that same day. Being kind as well as lovely, Cinderella forgave her sisters for being so mean, and in time, they became much nicer.

...and, they all lived happily ever after.