

Study Guide, Grades 4-8



**Book by Janece Shaffer
Music by S. Renee Clark**

Directed by Rosemary Newcott

Created as part of the Alliance Arts for Learning Institute
Dramaturgy by Students program

By: 6th grade Junior Dramaturgs of
The Friends School of Atlanta

Under the guidance of
Barry Stewart Mann, Alliance Arts for Learning Institute Teaching Artist, and
Johnny Pride, Language Arts Teacher at the Friends School of Atlanta

On the Alliance Theatre stage March 19—April 9, 2017



Dear Educators:

Welcome to the Alliance Theatre's production of *Cinderella and Fella*! This Program Guide was created by the Junior Dramaturgs of the Friends School of Atlanta for use by the teacher and student audiences of the play. We hope this helps you prepare to see the play and to reflect together afterward.

Your Junior Dramaturgs

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A Note from the Director

Rosemary Newcott, the Sally G. Tomlinson Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth and Families, says:

“The story of Cinderella has existed since ancient times. It is still popular today. Our brand new production of *Cinderella and Fella* borrows ideas from other versions of the story, but also has its own unique story elements.

Here are some questions to think about as you prepare for and reflect on the production:

- What are the qualities that make up a best friend (or royal cohort)?
- What are the challenges both Cinderella and Fella face at home?
- What part does the "Natural World" play in the telling of this story?

Thanks for coming to *Cinderella and Fella*!”

Content Standards in English Language Arts and Theatre

Language Arts Core Curriculum Standards

CCRR3. Analyze how and why individuals, events and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

CCRR4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative and figurative meanings and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone

CCRL3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

CCRS12. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Theatre Standards (GPS)

TAES 1. Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, and electronic media

TAES 8. Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations.

TAES 11. Engaging actively and appropriately as an audience member in theatre or other media experiences,

Background Knowledge: *Cinderella and Fella*

About the Playwright: Janece Shaffer

Janece Shaffer is a nationally-produced, award-winning playwright. She has written over a dozen plays. She was born and raised in Atlanta and has had seven productions at the Alliance Theatre, including *The Geller Girls*, *Broke*, and *Bluish*. Her play *Troubadour*, which was a musical collaboration with country music star Kristian Bush, just had a successful run on the Alliance Theatre Mainstage.



A Brief 'Cin-opsis

Cinderella and Fella is a modern take on the original Cinderella story. The play is about Cinderella, who lives and travels in a tiny house with her mean stepmother, stepsister, and stepbrother, in a land called Kashoogie. She hopes to go to the Boy-be-gonna, a party to be held for a prince named Maurice. Maurice's mother worries about him, is overprotective and doesn't want him to go outside. But the law says that the Prince must hold the party and choose a companion to go on a year-long adventure with him. Cinderella's step-family wants the Prince to select the stepbrother or -sister to accompany him on his journey. But with the help of animals and her Mother Tree, a tree inhabited by her mother's spirit, Cinderella makes it to the Boy-be-gonna and meets Maurice.

What's in a Name?

Janece Shaffer offered some of the inspiration behind the names in the play:

Lavorus (the Stepbrother) – “He’s named for a mouthwash that I remember growing up – Lavoris (spelled a little differently).”

Vamnesia (the Stepsister) – “I thought that name sounded like a vain girl, a silly girl.”

Shelayley (the Queen) – “My father always says the words, ‘Shelayley, Shelayley’ and so I decided to add that to the Queen's name.”

Kashoogie (the kingdom) – “I played with sounds to come up with Kashoogie; I wanted it to sound musical and inviting and fun.”

Maurice (the Prince) – “Maurice seemed like a big name, a name one would have to grow into, and I liked that idea for our young prince.”

Bobo (the squire or servant) – “During one of our readings, a member of the cast came up with the name Bobo for the butler/nanny/manservant who worked in the castle.”

Norm (the fish) – “I named the fish ‘Norm’ because that seemed like a name that a Prince Maurice would come up with for his pet.”



Vocabulary

Quotes in italics are lines from *Cinderella and Fella*!

Betrothed: Engaged or promised in marriage. *"He was betrothed or married to the lovely Ladoris Bozell."*

Katydid: A large green, long-horned grasshopper. *"That's the Katydids – you know it's them that cause they sound like – 'Katy did, she did, she did, Katy did.'"*

Lineage: A lineal descent from an ancestor; ancestry or pedigree. *"Before bringing out the royals I think a review of lineage of the Kashoogie is in order."*

Lolly-gagging: To spend time aimlessly, to dawdle. *"We have things to do, you can't be lolly-gagging around."*



Katy did and Yarrow

Meandering: Following a winding course, an act of following a winding course. *"Stop meandering. Everything must be readied."*

'Mi casa es su casa': A Spanish phrase literally meaning 'My house is your house,' and generally meaning, 'Come on in, relax, you're welcome here, make yourself at home.'

Solstice: The day when the sun reaches its highest point in the sky. *"Summer solstice is over."*

Yarrow – A Eurasian plant of the daisy family with feathery leaves and heads of small white, yellow, or pink aromatic flowers. *"And if the crabapples are too green and make your stomach ache, there's yarrow over there."*

Background Knowledge: The Cinderella Story

Source of the Story: Charles Perrault

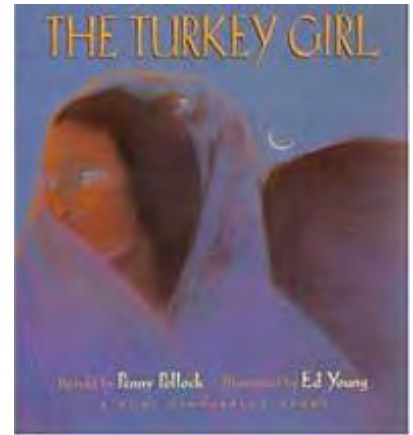
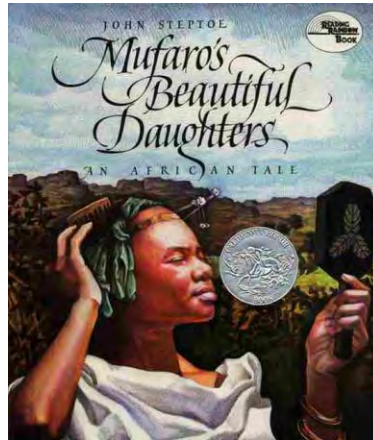
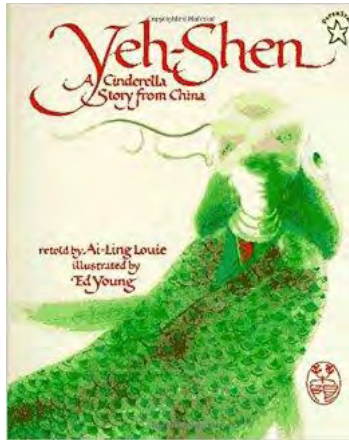
Charles Perrault was a Frenchman who wrote the story “Cinderella” in 1697. He wrote it in French, so it was called “Cendrillon.” Other stories he had written were “Little Red Riding Hood,” “Bluebeard,” “Puss-In-Boots,” and “Sleeping Beauty.” He is considered the “Father of the Fairy Tale.” Another name for the Cinderella story is the “Little Glass Slipper.”

About 100 years later, the Brothers Grimm then published the story. Now there are operas and musicals based on the story. Cinderella is a story known all over the world. The reason Cinderella is so popular is because it is a story of empowerment and romance. But the underlying message is this: tell your friends to make you a dress, go to the dance, and act like it was all your idea!



Cinderella Variants

There are many different versions of the tale of Cinderella, or stories like it that have developed on their own. Some have a male main character, like “Cinder Jack” (Eastern Europe) and “Billy Beg and his Bull” (Ireland). Some have different supernatural helpers like fairy godmothers, bones of the deceased, fish, turkeys, etc. The basic plot of every Cinderella story has a main character who has unkind family members and is not allowed to attend a dance/party. They then end up going to the party in secret and end up falling in love with a special host or guest. Then the family members end up having something bad happen to them. Sometimes it can end with the family members living happily with the main character with their new friend/companion. We have probably all seen or heard of the “Cinderella” Disney movie that came out in 2015, starring Lily James. There are many other versions of Cinderella such as “Lucky Star” (Manga), or the popular show, “Once Upon A Time.” Although they are all made by different people, have different plot points, and different characters and settings, they are all interesting stories. Some other variants are “The Princess and the Golden Shoes” from Scotland, “Yeh Shen” from China, and “Tattercoats” (yes, “Tattercoats!”) from England.



Here's a chart comparing several different variants of the Cinderella story. Try to find more and see how they compare and contrast with these.

Variant	Source	Name	Family	Magic Helper	Male Companion	Social Occasion	Test	Fate of Siblings
Cinderella	France/Charles Perrault	Cinderella	Stepmother, 2 Stepsisters	Fairy Godmother	Prince	Fancy Ball	Lost slipper	Forgiven and married
Yeh Shen	Southern China	Yeh Shen	Stepmother, Stepsister	Fish	King	Spring Festival	Lost Golden Slipper	Crushed by stones
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	Zimbabwe	Nyasha	Father & Sister	Small Snake	King	King seeking wife	Several Tests of Generosity	Becomes her servant
Turkey Girl	Zuni people of Southwest U.S.	Turkey Girl	No family, just her community	Turkeys	Braves, but no special one	Dance of the Sacred Bird	Returning to her turkeys in time	Turkey Girl loses her turkeys
Cinderella and Fella	Janece Shaffer	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Background Knowledge: Other Connections

Musical Theater

Cinderella and Fella is a play with music. Plays have always incorporated music, as far back as Ancient Greece through the Renaissance. In the 18th century, "Ballad Operas" such as John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, were the first long running musicals. In the 19th century, Gilbert & Sullivan's musicals, such as the *Pirates of Penzance*, and those of Ziegfeld, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Irving Berlin were performed in New York City and then toured the country. In 1955, *Oklahoma!* marked a turning point - the first time musical numbers and lyrics were used to move the story forward. In the 1970s, *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a huge hit by future musical theater superstar Andrew Lloyd Webber. In recent years, rock groups have been turning their albums into musicals, such as The Who's *Tommy*, Green Day's *American Idiot*, and *Mamma Mia!*, featuring the songs of ABBA. Now, we have satires, retold classics such as *Phantom of the Opera*, super hero musicals such as *Superman* and *Spiderman*, and smash-hit historical dramas, like *Hamilton!*



Some great musicals being advertised on Broadway in New York City

Humor

"Hello, audience. This is the Frog. I am a character in the play. Hey, did you know there will be humor in *Cinderella and Fella*? You probably already knew that. But let me tell you, there will be different types of humor. Such as *scatological*, which means, basically body humor, humor about body functions. Hahaha! There are also *anachronisms*. That means humor that includes something from the past or the present in an odd or funny way. There is also some *cross-dressing* - you probably know what that means. And there is *word play* - humor that comes from words having different meanings, like puns. The playwright put all these things in so you'll have a great time. Look for all the different kinds of humor. This has been the frog. I am out, kizit (hey, I'm sorry for using these fancy new words)."



Nature



Nature is an important part of this play, being the only reason that Cinderella finds her best friend. Nature and creatures are very important in many cultures as well. Druids, for example, love nature and animals. They draw inspiration and, of course, spiritual nourishment from nature and in Druid culture you are thought to be reborn as an animal after death. Animals are sacred in many places and cultures, such as how cows are sacred in India, and eagles are sacred in some Native American culture. Druidry is a spiritual practice in which people try to be creative, commune with nature, and gain access to great wisdom in life. The Druids originated on the shores of the British isles and France.



Spirituality and Trees

In the play, the Mother Tree plays a major role. Trees that come to life can be found in many stories, such as *The Lord of the Rings* (“Ents”), *Harry Potter* (“The Whomping Willow”), *The Wizard of Oz*, and the classic children’s book, *The Giving Tree*. There are many more trees like this in history and folklore. Trees are given human qualities and are able to communicate. This represents ‘animism,’ the belief that plants and inanimate objects have souls or spirits, which is perhaps the most ancient form of religion. In Europe, a remnant of this ancient religion can be seen in the reverence for or the worship of trees.



Left: A student artist’s rendering of a personified tree. Right: A painting created at The Friends School of Atlanta, home of the junior dramatists for this guide. The painting was created for another purpose, but it is fitting for the Mother Tree in *Cinderella and Fella*. The painting hangs in the school lobby.

Tiny Houses



Above: A tiny house like the one in the play.

Cinderella and her step-family live and travel in a ‘tiny house.’ Tiny houses are a relatively new movement in the United States where people are choosing to live in smaller houses. The typical American home is around 2,600 square feet, but the typical tiny house is between 100 and 400 square feet. That is smaller than most classrooms, or about the size of a one-car garage. Tiny houses are made for simpler living in a smaller, more efficient space. People are choosing to live in such houses for many

reasons, but the most popular reasons are to protect the environment, to save money, and to have more time and freedom. For most Americans 1/3 to 1/2 of their income is dedicated to housing costs; this equals 15 years of work just to pay for it. Many Americans live paycheck to paycheck, so having a smaller, less expensive house can make a lot of sense.

Coming of Age - Psychology

Growing children ages from 12-18 (adolescents) experience many changes in their lives. There are physical changes and mental ones too. A lot of times, they pay more attention to their social life, rather than their family. They care less about their parents and want to hang out with friends more often. Some can become rebels to their parents. Tweens/teens get more mature over time. Sooner or later each one becomes more responsible and will know better what to do and what not to do. We all mature at different times; some are very mature at ages younger than 11 or 12. People also become more organized. There are many examples of the psychology of 'coming of age' in *Cinderella and Fella*. The Prince cares more about his friends, especially his new friend Cinderella and pays less attention to his mother. He rebels against his mother, Queen Shelayley, who can be very overbearing and overprotective. Cinderella also becomes more independent during the play. In these ways, this play is a 'coming of age' story.



Cinderella and Fella, just a couple of ordinary adolescents, dealing with the emotions, the worries, the challenges and the excitement of growing up!

Coming of Age - Rituals



A quinceañera celebration in California.

The “Boy-be-gonna” is a celebration of the Prince’s coming of age. It shows how the Prince changes. Kashoogie isn’t the only place in the world that has a coming-of-age ceremony. For example, in the Jewish faith, young men and women have Bar Mitzvahs (for boys, at age thirteen) or Bat Mitzvahs (for girls, at age twelve). These celebrations are held to mark a boy’s or girl’s right to participate in Jewish ceremonies. Another example is the bullet ant initiation of the Satere-Mawe, an indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest in central Brazil. Ants are stuck into woven mitts. Then, boys 12 years old or older wear them twenty times for eleven hours. Even more examples are the American Sweet Sixteen or the Hispanic *Quinceañera*. The latter is a religious celebration for girls at age fifteen that is celebrated throughout Latin America.



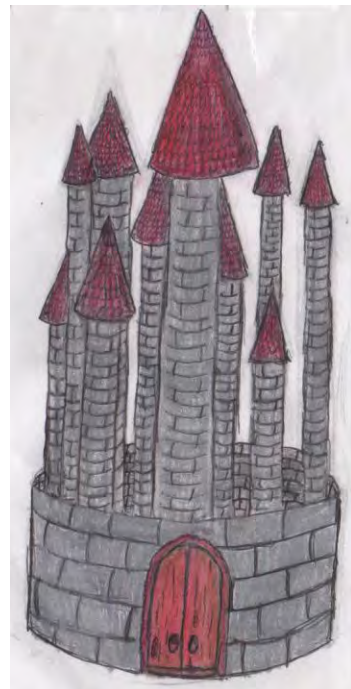
A Bar Mitzvah ceremony in Jerusalem, Israel.

Word Search

B	O	B	O	T	Q	N	C	L	A	E	Q	C	A
A	J	C	N	Q	V	M	I	C	H	R	U	S	M
Q	P	O	U	M	A	U	R	I	C	E	E	A	C
P	Z	D	Y	I	M	N	I	M	E	A	E	I	A
R	G	E	P	E	N	E	S	P	H	I	N	E	P
I	C	O	S	I	E	S	A	E	I	D	S	I	R
N	W	L	F	G	S	H	N	C	E	S	H	M	N
C	R	O	V	O	I	I	R	R	S	D	E	A	A
E	O	B	F	O	A	O	E	M	L	L	L	C	L
U	B	E	S	H	L	L	P	Y	A	R	A	N	H
E	W	R	E	S	L	R	I	R	M	M	Y	S	M
E	L	T	S	A	C	R	C	T	I	N	L	A	T
L	A	M	I	K	A	K	E	A	N	P	E	C	H
N	P	A	R	T	Y	E	N	P	A	Q	Y	Q	M

*Find the following words in the
Word Search:*

Animals
Bobo
Castle
Cinderella
Joy
Kashoogie
Maurice
Party
Prince
Queen Shelayley
Vamnesia



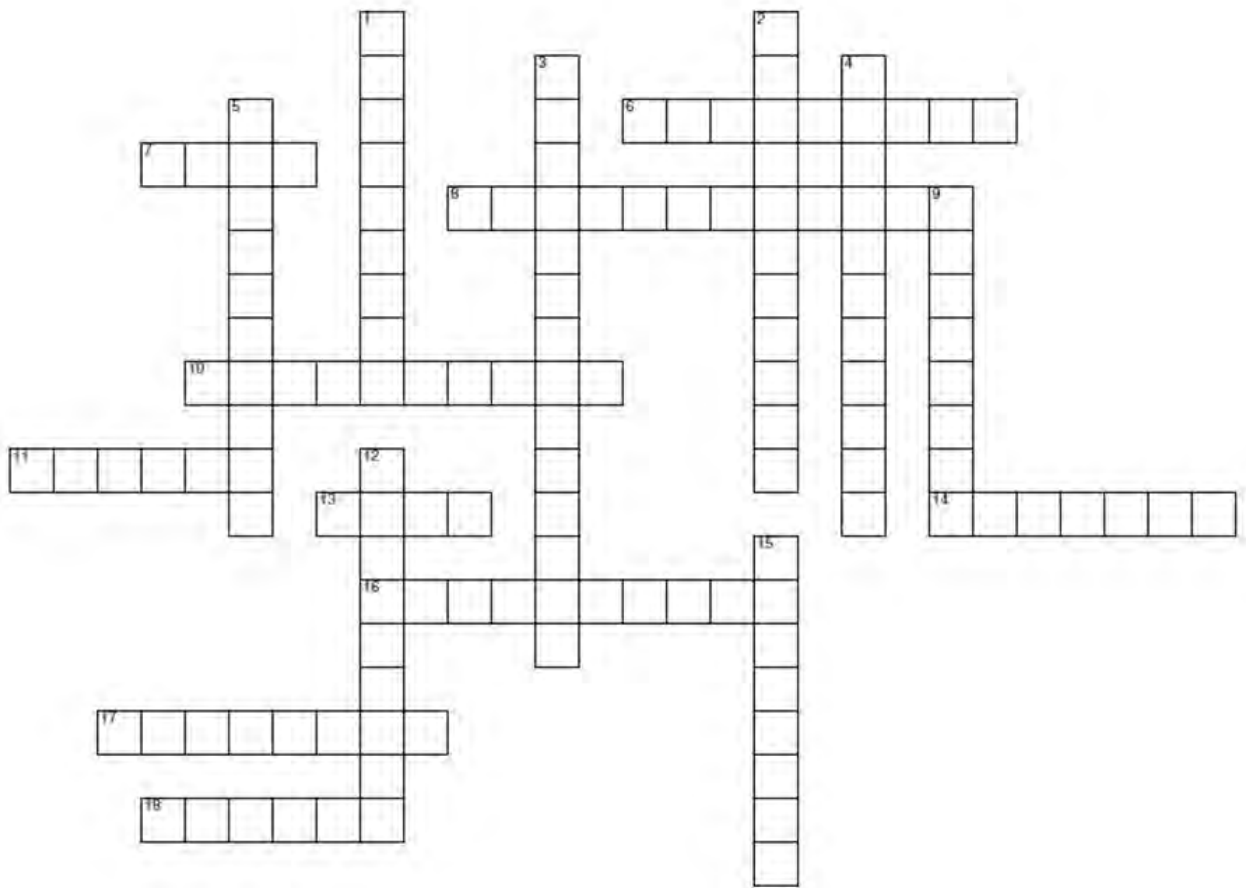
Word Ladder

Read the clues on the left and follow the instructions on the right to move from one word to another in the *Cinderella and Fella* word ladder.

One with roots and branches	_____	Change a letter
Able to do what you want	_____	Change two letters
A little green hopper	_____	Drop two, add four
Someone to travel with	_____	Drop two, scramble three
A burning force	_____	Change a letter
Another word for King	_____	Insert two letters
A knight's helper	_____	Insert one, add one
A little nut-gatherer	_____	



Crossword Puzzle



Across

6. Mini-mansion
7. He says, "Squeeze me when you need me."
8. Father's wife's son & daughter
10. She comes alive at the summer solstice
11. Fishy fellow (full name)
13. Kashoogian squire
14. Alphabet burper
16. The Prince's Mud Bud
17. She said, "I talked to him all day."
18. King, Jr.

Down

1. "The Best Kingdom"
2. Prince's chosen companion
3. A woman who is not King He-Stand-Stand
4. They open at night
5. Maurice's big party
9. One who is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
12. Someone you don't want to get stuck with
15. It comes from trees and makes you sneeze



References and Resources

Adolescence:

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/geneticsgrowthanddevelopment/adolescence/>

Cinderella Variants: <http://www.ala.org/offices/resources/multicultural>

Cinderella Variants: *Happily Ever After: Sharing Folk Literature with Elementary and Middle School Students*, edited by Terrell A. Young (2004)

Druids: www.druidry.org/druid-way

People and Trees: <http://www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/people-and-trees-an-intimate-connection/>

Rites of Passage: <http://all-that-is-interesting.com/worlds-coolest-coming-of-age-traditions>

Tiny Houses: <http://thetinylife.com/what-is-the-tiny-house-movement/>

FSA Dramaturgs



Friends School of Atlanta Junior Dramaturgs: Front Row – Fiona Anderson, Phoebe Burkett, Max Finnegan; Middle Row: Jhane Brooker, Peyton Krebs, Kennedy Holts, Manal Tariq, Riley Brown, Drew Grauch, Robert Harvey, Logan Butts, Isaiah Manning, Kate Richardson. Back Row: Alliance Theatre Teaching Artist Barry Stewart Mann, Sixth Grade Teacher Johnny Pride, Clay Munsterman, London Taylor-Perry.

Solutions

Word Ladder Answers. p. 17: Tree, Free, Frog, Friend, Fire, Sire, Squire, Squirrel

Crossword Puzzle Answers. p. 18: *Across* – 6. Tiny House 7. Frog 8. Stepsiblings 10. Mother Tree 11. Norman 13. Bobo 14. Laurus 16. Cinderella 17. Vamnesia 18. Prince *Down* – 1. Kashoogie 2. Royal Cohort 3. Queen Shelayley 4. Moonflowers 5. Boy-Be-Gonna 9. Squirrel 12. Porcupine 15. Hayfever