

CINDERELLA

A FAIRYTALE



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**BRISTOL
OLD VIC**
AT CHRISTMAS

KSI & 2 EDUCATION PACK

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Cinderella follows a young girl called Ella, as she struggles against her cruel step-family to be happy.

Ella lives happily with her father. Although her mother died when she was just a baby, Ella has a good childhood, often playing in the garden, climbing trees and talking to the birds. Everything is peaceful, until one day her father remarries and Ella gets a Stepmother and a new Brother and Sister... who are very different to her. And soon... her father dies.

The family is left penniless. So, to keep the house neat and tidy, the Stepmother forces Ella to become the family's servant and to sleep in the ashes of the fire! And so, she gets the cruel nickname 'Cinderella'. One day, Ella comes across a young man watching birds in the woods. She is able to copy many of the calls of the birds he is looking for and he is so impressed that he invites Ella to a party...

It turns out that he is the Prince, and the invitation is to a party at the Palace! Ella's Stepmother and siblings steal the invitation. Ella begs to be allowed to come with them to the party, but her Stepmother says she can only come if she finishes some impossible tasks. Luckily, the birds help her and bring her new clothes to wear to the party.

At the ball, the Queen wants to find a wife for the Prince. Everyone tries to impress him, but the Prince is disappointed not to see Ella. He flees outside... and finds her! They dance together. Suddenly, Ella runs off, leaving behind a boot.

The Prince declares that he will only marry the girl whose foot fits the boot, and so the search begins. He searches all over Bristol, until finally... he arrives at Ella's house. But the family hide Ella and pretend the Sister and Brother are the only young people in the house. The boot is the wrong size, so the Stepmother makes the Sister cut off some of her toes to make it fit! However, the birds reveal the trick. Just as the Brother is about to have his toes cut off too, Ella comes out of hiding, and she and the Prince are reunited!

At the last moment, the Stepmother leaps out and threatens them but the birds stop her by pecking her eyes. The Sister and Brother trap her in a chest; Ella and the Prince are safe.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cinderella is a very old tale and different versions of it have been told for years and years. It is believed that the first ever version of the story was told in Ancient Greece, about 2000 years ago!

This production of *Cinderella* was first staged in 2012, and now it's back – 14 years later.

There are different versions of *Cinderella* all over the world! In some Spanish-speaking countries, she is Maria the Estrellita de Oro (The Little Gold Star), in Malta she is Ċiklemfusa, in China she is Ye Xian, and in Iran, she is called Mah Pishooni, or The Girl With the Moon Forehead.

Discussion Questions For Your Class

1. What kinds of birds were there in the story?
2. Have you ever seen any of those birds in real life?
3. What kind of birds do you see around you in Bristol?
4. Are there any birds you think of when you think of winter?
5. Ella spends lots of time in the forest. What sort of things do you think she might see, hear, smell, touch or taste while she's exploring the woods?
6. Have you explored any of Bristol's forests and woodland?
7. What kind of activities do you like to do there?



Be The Birds: A Puppetry Activity

Gather some “found materials” from home / around the classroom that you could use to make a bird puppet. This might include:

- newspaper
- scrap paper/cardboard
- string
- bottle caps
- sellotape
- tissues/tissue paper
- felt
- drinks cans
- paper straws

Spend some time getting creative. Your aim is to make something that sort of looks like a bird. Don't worry if it looks a bit silly! That's even better! You might try giving it:

- a squidgy newspaper-ball body
- huge wings made of tissues
- the world's tiniest beak
- really long string legs
- beady bottle cap eyes
- anything you like!

Once you have your bird, have a go at bringing it to life. You might try:

- wafting it up and down to make its wings flap
- wiggling its legs around
- pecking at the ground
- swooping around with birds that other people have made

Top puppetry tip: to make puppets feel really alive, puppeteers will often make sure they are always looking at their puppet, and that the puppet looks like it is breathing (with a little “up and down” movement). Give it a try!

The Perfect Outfit For A Ball: A Group Drawing Activity

Group size: 5

Materials: A3 paper
(1 sheet per person),
Pens

Make folds on each big piece of paper (perhaps A3) horizontally so that it contains the same amount of sections as there are people in the group and number them. For example, each sheet in the group should look a bit like this:



Each person should then fold their piece up so that they can only see the section 1. On this segment, they should draw the head of their character: a character who is going to the ball! You might want to give them a big hat, silly hair, a weird facial expression... whatever you like!

When you've finished, fold the paper so you can see only section 2. Pass the paper to the person to your left. You should now have someone else's paper, with the 2nd section showing. You're going to continue their drawing of the perfect outfit, pass it on, get a new one, add to it, and so on, until you reach number 5: the “feet”! You might want to divide the sections up like:

1. Head
2. Shoulders, arms, chest
3. Tummy
4. Legs
5. Feet

Be as creative and strange as you like! Remember: it's your idea of the perfect outfit. Once you have your own piece back at the end, open it up and have a look at all the crazy outfits you've designed!

Fly Together: A Drama Movement Game

Group size: 4-7

Gather your group into a small huddle, all facing in one direction. Hold your arms at your sides like wings. You are now a flock of birds!

You will now begin to move around the room, exploring different birdlike ways of moving, copying whoever is at the front of the huddle. Each person should have a go for a little bit, so make sure you take turns.

You might want to try:

- moving super slowly making big flapping movements with your arms
- making little hopping steps like a robin
- swooping high and low and changing how tall you are by bending your knees
- playing with different speeds
- How else might a bird move?

A Message From The Forest: A 'Found Words' Writing Game

- Group size: Tables of around 5
- Cut up lots of small pieces of paper (around 1 inch x 2 inches) that you could write a single word on.

In your groups, each person should take 12 of the small pieces of paper and write down the following.

- 4 x nouns (such as: mum, light, tree, happiness, leaf, music)
- 4 x adjectives (such as: shiny, explosive, big, dramatic)
- 4 x present-tense verbs (such as: dance, bother, imagine, cry)
- (* You could also pre-prepare some connecting words or phrases such as in the / up / because / and / the, or some pronouns such as I / you / they / we.)

- When everyone is done, mix everyone's pieces of paper together in a big pile.
- Now, pick out 12 of the pieces of paper from the pile. Some might be your words, many will be other people's! (*Adjust the number of words according to age / number of people in the group)
- Set them out in front of you so you can read them all at the same time. Your words might now look like this:

tree moon sing dog
shiny flop shoe
mystery pink green wiggle
branch

Congratulations, you've made a silly poem! You might want to play with putting the words in different orders to see what you can create.

You might even want to try filling in the gaps in between the words to add more details.

This might look something like:

from a tree, the moon sings to its dog
a shiny, floppy shoe
is a mystery. my foot turns pink and green
and wiggles.
a branch cracks

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