

### ***Cinderella* Reading Questions**

Pay careful attention to all details (colors, music, costumes, dialogue, etc.) All of these questions go in chronological order. You do not need to turn your answers in, but it would be a good idea to pay attention because **some of these questions will be considered for your next test**. Also, if you miss a question/answer, please be considerate of watchers around you. Circle the question, and then ask a classmate later.

#### **1949 Disney Version**

1. In the opening sequence of the story, the narrator tells the back story. Why does the narrator say Cinderella's father wanted to remarry?
2. During the opening narration, what colors are used to create a sense of sadness?
3. During the song "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," how do we see gender roles, norms, and expectations dealt with? Find at least two examples of this.
4. After the song, the viewer is introduced to a new character. How is he described?
5. What character qualities does Lucifer have?
6. What character flaw leaves Gus susceptible to getting caught by Lucifer at the beginning of this scene?
7. What do you notice about the voice/accent of Drusilla and Anastasia, especially as we are introduced to them for the first time?

8. In the first scene with Lady Tremaine, what Molly Bang principle(s) might be at work and how might they convey meaning?
  
9. Why is the King so upset? What does this scene reveal about gender expectations?
  
10. When the Duke starts to talk about love, the King says, "Just a boy meeting a girl under the right \_\_\_\_\_. So we're arranging the \_\_\_\_\_."
11. In the "Sweet Nightingale" scene, how are the stepsisters contrasted to Cinderella?
  
12. When Cinderella sings the song, what is she doing? Does it look glamorous while she's singing?
  
13. Why does the stepmother tell the stepdaughters to practice self control? How do we know they don't pay attention to her admonition right after it's given?
  
14. Cinderella becomes surprised by the dress the animals have prepared for her. Pay careful attention to the response from the stepsisters when prompted by the stepmother. What has happened to Cinderella? How would you describe this incident?
  
15. What is Cinderella's response to what the stepsisters have done?

16. Outside, there is a clever philosophical exchange between Cinderella and the chorus of singing voices. What is being established through this exchange, and how does this connect with Perrault's morals? (Hint: She says, "I can't believe. Not anymore. There's nothing left to believe in.")
  
17. The fairy godmother says they have to hurry, because "even \_\_\_\_\_ takes a little time."
  
18. In this scene, the Prince is meeting all the maidens at the palace. From what you can see, are any of these women as beautiful as Cinderella?
  
19. The frustrated King says, "I can't understand it. There must be at least one who'd make a suitable \_\_\_\_\_." He's corrected by the Duke. Why does he change what he says?
  
20. Pay careful attention to the words and actions during the song, "So This Is Love." How much time have they known each other?
  
21. Once Lady Tremaine sees Cinderella dancing and singing "So This Is Love" to herself, the camera focuses on Lady Tremaine's face. What Molly Bang principle is in operation here, and what meaning is being conveyed?
  
22. Pay CAREFUL attention to Lady Tremaine's eyes as she locks the door on Cinderella. What is going on here!?!?
  
23. When the first stepsister tries on the slipper, what message about standards of beauty is conveyed by her foot?
  
24. When Cinderella announces her presence, the grand duke focuses on her through his monocle. What part of her does he focus on, and why does he smile?

25. The prince and Cinderella rush off. Listen to the words of the song: “Have faith in dreams and some day, your rainbow will come smiling through. No matter how your heart is grieving. If you keep on believing, the \_\_\_\_\_ that you wish will come true.”

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#### **1998 Disney version**

1. Pay careful attention to Whitney Houston’s prologue. She sings “Impossible for a plain yellow pumpkin to become a gold carriage. Impossible for a plain country bumpkin and a prince to join in marriage. A slipper made of glass is just a shoe. And dreamers never make a dream come true. Impossible.” What general message might the viewer take away from this song?
2. In the opening scene, what do we learn about Cinderella and her stepfamily?
3. Cinderella and the Prince sing the song “The Sweetest Sounds.” How does this song (and the interaction right after the song) set the stage for the story?
4. What is Cinderella’s philosophy on how a girl should be treated? How does it contradict the Prince’s idea?
5. What ideas are conveyed in the song “In My Own Little Corner”? What might the viewer learn about Cinderella’s personality from this song?

6. This chapter is called "Drilling the Girls." What values does the stepmother try to pass on to her daughters in this scene? How are those values in contrast to the ones put forward by Cinderella? In this version, do the stepsisters seem evil or victimized? Why? (Hint: At one point, Minerva says, "Mother, you're hurting me." The stepmother says, "Beauty knows no pain, girls!")
  
7. The stepmother then sings "Falling in Love With Love" to contrast Cinderella's ideas. What facts about the stepmother's personal life come through this song, and how might her experiences have influenced her since?
  
8. The Fairy Godmother in this version does not immediately grant Cinderella her wish; instead, she lectures Cinderella. What are the main points of her lecture?
  
9. When the two go outside, Cinderella says, "Wait. If impossible things happen every day, then why shouldn't I have impossible hopes and dreams? Even something as impossible as going to the ball?" The fairy godmother tells her to go, that no one's stopping her but herself. How does Cinderella's response connect with Perrault's morals?
  
10. In the chapter entitled "The Stepsisters' Lament," what sort of commentary might this song be making on who can and cannot be a princess?
  
11. In the scenes following the ball, how does Cinderella demonstrate that she has learned an important lesson from her Fairy Godmother?
  
12. What happens to the stepsisters in the end?

