

Cinderella and a Mouse Called Fred – Classroom Lesson Plan

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Includes Virtual Author Interview

Book Synopsis

Cinderella and a Mouse Called Fred retells the classic fairy tale from the perspective of one of Cinderella's helpful mice. Fred longs to contribute in a meaningful way, and through courage and persistence, he helps change the course of the story. The book explores point of view, bravery, agency, and how even small characters can make a significant impact.

Standards Alignment (Common Core ELA 3–5 Example)

- RL.3-5.2: Determine a theme and explain how it is conveyed through details.
- RL.3-5.3: Describe characters and explain how their actions contribute to events.
- RL.3-5.6: Describe how a narrator's point of view influences how events are described.
- SL.3-5.1: Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.

Backward Design Planning

End Goal: Students will explain how point of view shapes a story and how a character's actions contribute to theme development.

Assessment Evidence: Students will write a short response explaining how Fred's perspective changes the traditional Cinderella narrative and supports the theme of courage.

Lesson Objectives (Students Will...)

- Identify the narrator and explain how point of view influences storytelling.
- Analyze Fred's character traits using text evidence.
- Determine a theme and support it with details from the text.

Lesson Structure (60 Minutes)

- Warm-Up (5 min): How would Cinderella change if told by a different character?
- Direct Instruction (15–20 min): Model identifying point of view and theme. Define: narrator, perspective, theme, character motivation.
- Guided Practice (15 min): In pairs, analyze one page and identify how Fred's viewpoint shapes the scene. Synthesis Question: How does telling the story through Fred shift the reader's understanding?
- Independent Practice (15 min): Write a paragraph explaining how Fred contributes to the story's theme using textual evidence.
- Exit Ticket (5 min): One sentence explaining why point of view matters.

Creative Interpretation Option

- Rewrite one scene from another character's perspective.
- Create a visual comparison chart of classic Cinderella vs. Fred's version.
- Storyboard Fred's key moments in the plot.

Include an artist statement explaining how the creative work reflects theme and perspective.

Call to Action

Encourage students to reflect on how stories change when new voices are centered. Invite them to explore other retellings that amplify overlooked characters. Support literacy by connecting students to diverse perspectives and by creating space for thoughtful discussion about whose stories are told—and why.

Author Interview

Author interview provided by UNBAN COOLIES.
Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/@unbanCOOLIES>

Lesson materials developed in partnership with UNBAN COOLIES.