Annotated Resources on Cinderella

A Grecian slave girl, Rhodopis, is rescued by the Pharaoh from her life of servitude in Egypt. In this Cinderella story for children, Rhodopis’ shoe is carried by a falcon to the very lap of the Pharaoh, who wants to make its owner his queen. Climo’s story is based upon the first recorded Cinderella story from the first century BC. (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)

In this Persian Cinderella story set during the Iranian New Year, Settareh steals the heart of the Prince. Despite the interference from her jealous stepsisters, Settareh succeeds with the help of a magic pot and a misplaced anklet. Climo’s tale is based upon the story “The Anklet” from *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*. (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)

In this academic study, Dundes explores the popularity and global reach of Cinderella stories with chapters that include the texts of particular Cinderella variations, as well as chapters on unifying themes, folklore studies, and close readings of gender, psychology, and linguistics.

This book is a curriculum for teachers providing activities, information, and lesson plans on Cinderella stories from across the globe. Goodwin addresses twelve Cinderella stories from India, Russia, Mexico, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the United States. The approach of the curriculum material is geared toward reading and writing proficiency, gender issues, multiculturalism, values, social studies, research, and geography. (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)

Maha, the Cinderella character in this book, is the daughter of a Middle Eastern fisherman destined to serve her stepmother and stepsister. After a lucky encounter with a talking, red fish and a lost sandal, Maha finds her way to a henna bridal party and into the bride’s brother’s heart. Hickox’s version of the Cinderella story is based upon an Iraqi story called “The Little Red Fish and the Clog of Gold.” (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)

Northrup’s article can be found on the American Library Association web site: [http://www.ala.org/ala/booklinksbucket/multicultural.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/booklinksbucket/multicultural.htm). The article gives a
brief overview of the Cinderella story and a lengthy bibliography of Cinderella stories from Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Rodseth, Lars (et. al). *Arab World Mosaic: A Curriculum Supplement for Elementary Teachers.* Dearborn, MI: The ACCESS Cultural Arts Program. This resource book for elementary school teachers is comprised of six lesson units for teaching about the Arab world. Students will learn about both ancient and modern Arab culture in these lessons. Topics broadly discussed include holidays, plants and animals, family, and community, all in an Arabic context. There are also several stories adapted from Arabic folktales which students will read and analyze, thereby developing their cultural awareness and critical skills. Unit Six is particularly helpful with a curriculum unit on Cinderella stories. There are two additional Palestinian Cinderella stories from the Middle East that can be incorporated into the CSAMES lesson plan. (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)

Sierra, Judy. *Cinderella: The Oryx Multicultural Folktale Series.* Phoenix, Arizona: The Oryx Press, 1992. This anthology of Cinderella tales includes 25 versions of the Cinderella story from cultures all over the world, including Europe, Africa, Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas. A glossary to the tales, notes to the tales, as well as a section on essays, activities, and issues are found at the back of the book.

Silverman, Erica. *Raisel’s Riddle.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999. In this Cinderella story for children, the young Jewish protagonist Raisel manages to attend the Purim festival with the help of a beggar woman. She captures the heart of the rabbi’s son with a riddle, emphasizing the importance of learning. (Although Silverman’s Cinderella story is set in Poland, it is a Jewish protagonist whose story can be viewed as a general Jewish Cinderella story.) (Available to loan from the CSAMES library.)