

Cinderella

The Brothers Grimm

Level 1

400 Headwords



Retold by
Jane Richards

CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful young girl. She was also rich, and she lived very happily with her father and her mother in a house near the King's castle. But **sadly**, one day, the girl's mother died. Before she died, the mother said to the girl, 'Soon I'll die, and you'll have no mother. Your father will be **sad**. Be **kind** to him, and always be a good girl. Always remember me. Be happy.'

But the girl was very sad, and her father was sad too.

'What will we do?' asked the father. 'How can I live with no wife?'

'Oh, Father,' said the girl. 'We must remember Mother. We must remember our happy times. We'll be happy again!'

The mother was in a **grave** near the church, and the girl and her father went there every day. They went in the cold and the snow. They took flowers, and they remembered their happy family times. And then the snow stopped, the sun came back and one day, the girl's father said, 'I won't go to the grave today.'

sadly (adverb) unfortunately; not happily

sad (adjective) not happy

kind (adjective) nice and gentle

grave (noun) the place in the ground for burying a dead body



One day, the girl's mother died.

So the girl went to her mother's grave, and her father stayed in his house. She went to her mother's grave every day, but her father stopped going.

One day, the girl's father came to their house with a woman.

'I'm so happy,' he said to the girl. 'This is your new mother. We're going to marry next week.'

The girl thought, 'But what about Mother?'

But she didn't say a word about her mother. No, she looked at her father and the woman, and she said, 'I'm very happy for you both.'

Then her father said, 'We're happy, too! And you'll be happy as well because your new mother has two beautiful daughters. You'll have two new sisters and two new friends.'

The girl said again, 'I'm very happy for you,' but she thought, 'They're not my sisters or my mother. They're stepsisters and a **stepmother**!'

The next week, the girl's father and the woman married. The woman and her two daughters came to live in the house near the King's castle.

stepmother (noun) a woman who is married to your father but who is not your mother



After some weeks, Cinderella went to her mother's grave every day.

At first, they were nice and kind to the girl, but slowly things began to change. The stepsisters began to take the girl's clothes. She had no nice dresses, so she wore old, grey clothes. They took her shoes, and her feet were cold. The stepmother and stepsisters weren't kind, and the girl worked hard for them. She cleaned and cooked. She carried water and made the fire in the morning. Sometimes, the stepsisters dropped beans into the **cinders**.

'Pick up the beans!' they said to the girl, and the girl picked them up and cleaned them. The girl's father didn't see because he was at work, and he was happy with his new wife. He didn't know his stepdaughters weren't kind, and his daughter was sad.

'Work harder!' said the first stepsister.

'Wash my clothes!' said the second stepsister.

'Clean the old cinders from the fire!' said the stepmother.

'You can wear our old, grey dresses,' they said. 'You don't need beautiful clothes.'

'You can sleep in the cinders,' they said. 'You don't need a bed.'

And then, the stepsisters gave her a new name. It was Cinderella.

cinder (noun) a very small piece of burnt wood or coal



And then, the stepsisters gave her a new name. It was Cinderella.

Quiz 2

Complete the sentences with the past simple tense of these verbs.

lose	go	read	drop	buy
forgive	think	cry	write	see
know	catch	trip	fall	speak

1. The fisherman a huge, silver fish in the lake.
2. He his keys yesterday and can't open the door now.
3. She her friend on Tuesday at the cinema.
4. We lots of fruit and vegetables at the market.
5. She the man because she had seen him before.
6. I never her because she always told me lies.
7. Dean a letter to his grandmother every week.
8. The girl every book in the library.
9. I she was going to the party last night with you.
10. They outside to look for the missing dog.
11. The lady her glove in the puddle yesterday.
12. We with laughter when we watched the funny film.
13. The boy off the wall and hurt his knee.
14. I went to Germany and in German all the time.
15. You on the toys that were all over the floor.