Authors Tell Different Stories

By: Sue Peterson

Many of you have heard a *Cinderella* story, but what you may not know is that there are over a hundred different ways to tell the *Cinderella* story. Each of these stories is written by a different author. An author is someone who writes a story.
Let’s look at two authors and how their stories are different. Pay close attention to the stories especially the animals in the story. When writers write about the same thing but tell the story in a different way… that is called their “version” of the story. The story of *Cinderella* has many different versions.

The version that most people know is the oldest one written in 1697 by Charles Perrault from France. This is the version where the birds help sew Cinderella’s dress and the mice turn into carriage men and help Cinderella go to the ball in the pumpkin that turns into a carriage. In this version, many of the animals are Cinderella’s friends. They help her meet the Prince, who Cinderella marries, and together they live happily ever after.

In another version of this story, written in the 1850s by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm from Germany, there are birds that help Cinderella throughout the story. Cinderella’s
mother is not living at the beginning of the story. She visits her mother’s grave three times a day to say a prayer for her.

Cinderella’s father had given her a twig when he went to the festival. She plants the twig and her tears water the twig until it grows into a tall tree.

The birds now live in the tree and they give Cinderella a dress of gold and silver and slippers that are gold and silver, too. Cinderella goes to the festival to meet and dance with the Prince. Later, he finds Cinderella at home doing work for her stepmother and stepsisters. Cinderella marries the Prince and they live happily ever after.

Now you can understand what the word “version” means and how more than one author can tell a story in a different way. This is also called the “author’s point-of-view”. The story is told from the author’s viewpoint. That is why there are many versions of the same story.
Practice

Language Work

A. Write the words.

author _____________________________
especially _____________________________
carriage _____________________________
prayer _____________________________
festival ____________________________

B. Use each word in a sentence. Underline the word used.

pumpkin _________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________.

visits __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________.

gold __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________.

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silver

slipper

version

C. Matching. Draw a line from the word to the correct definition.

| a. author | 1. different ways to tell a story |
| b. viewpoint | 2. someone who writes |
| c. versions | 3. how someone thinks about something; a point-of-view |
D. Phonics work. The word “slippers” has a short vowel “i” between two consonants, the “l” and the first “p”. You can see these consonants underlined in the word “slippers”. When one vowel (a, e, i, o, u) is between two consonants, the vowel is usually short. Can you think of three more words that have one vowel between two consonants and the vowel is short? Write these words on the blanks and underline the consonants on both sides of the short vowel in each word.

_________________________, ________________________
and _______________________

E. Word Search.
Find the words: author, especially, carriage, pumpkin, visits, cries, prayer, beautiful, gold, silver, slipper, view
Multiple-Choice Questions (Put an X in front of the correct answer.)

1. The text talks about many versions of the same story. Why can there be many versions?
   - a. There is only one author.
   - b. There are different viewpoints from different authors.
   - c. The stories are old.
   - d. There is one viewpoint.

2. What is something that an author can write?
   - a. picture
   - b. story
   - c. drawing
   - d. all of the above

3. What is meant by an author’s version of the story?
   - b. How the author reads.
   - c. What the author likes to do.
   - d. How the author sings.

Definitions (Write the meaning of each word as it is used in the text.)

1. author

2. especially

3. festival
**Extended Response**  (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. This story talks about different versions of *Cinderella*. What is the oldest version mentioned in the story? Who wrote it? When was it written?

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________.

2. In Grimm’s version written in the 1850s in Germany, the *Cinderella* story has Cinderella visit the grave of her mother three times a day. Explain how the twig grows and what the birds do for Cinderella.

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________.
3. In fairy tales, there usually is a “happily ever after” ending. Explain one of the endings of the *Cinderella* story and how this is a “happily ever after” ending.

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_____________________________________________________
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Answer Sheet
Answers for Matching, Multiple-Choice Questions and Extended Response

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Matching
a(2); b(3); c(1)

Multiple-Choice Questions
1. b
2. b
3. a

Extended Response (accept reasonable answers.)
1. The oldest version was written in 1697 by Charles Perrault in France.
2. The twig is watered from Cinderella’s tears. The birds live in the tree. They give Cinderella a dress and also shoes.
3. Free expression.