

# FAIRY TALES

## FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Illustration by Anne Anderson (1874-1930)

Western audiences are most familiar with the version of *Cinderella* written by French author Charles Perrault, who is largely responsible for developing the fairy tale genre. Perrault's stories were based on folk tales, most of which were passed down orally from generation to generation. In 1697, he published *Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper*. The Brothers Grimm wrote their own version in 1812 and were followed themselves by the animated Disney film in 1950.

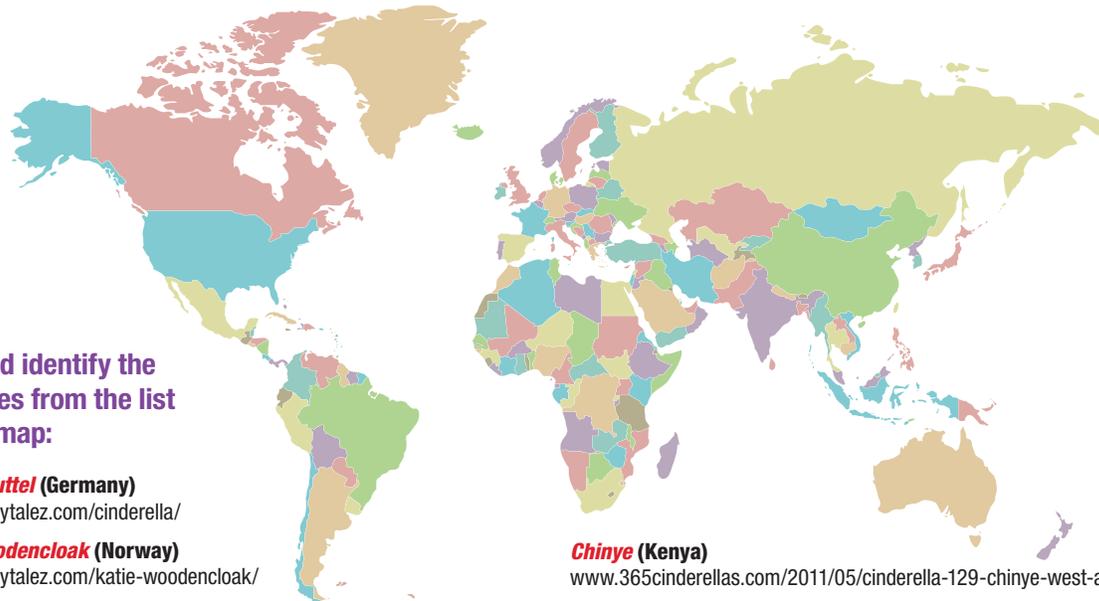
The Cinderella fairy tale is not unique to Europe or the Western world. While scholars disagree about the exact number, it is believed that there are over 800 variations of *Cinderella* from around the globe. While each one differs in setting or plot details, the basic outline is the same: a young person (most often a girl, sometimes a boy) is mistreated. They suffer at the hands of a family member whose own lifestyle is one of leisure or idleness, and who may lavish gifts and attention on other members of the family.

Despite the cruelty, the heroine or hero remains kindhearted and modest, often in the hope that they will one day receive love and affection. A valuable prize is put before the family and the wicked one's scheme to win it. In the end, Cinderella, with the help of animal or human friends, triumphs and receives the prize. In most versions, the prize is the love of a handsome prince and a life of luxury. The widest variation between the Cinderella tales is the ending: in some versions, Cinderella forgives the cruelty of family members, while in other versions, the family is severely punished.

How can one fairy tale appear in so many different cultures? Fairy tales are one category within the larger genre of folklore, which includes myths, legends, music traditions, oral history, proverbs, and traditional beliefs specific to a culture. A culture's folklore comes from the experiences of the people within that culture.

*Cinderella* is largely a tale about feeling powerless and unloved, and the fear of being mistreated or undervalued. These feelings are not unique to any one culture but are universal experiences. So, too, is the desire for revenge on those we feel have wronged us. Cinderella's rise from lowly servant to Princess is a type of revenge and is her reward for being a good person.

### Below is a short list of Cinderella fairy tales from around the world



Find and identify the countries from the list on the map:

**Aschenputtel (Germany)**  
<https://fairytales.com/cinderella/>

**Katie Woodencloak (Norway)**  
<https://fairytales.com/katie-woodencloak/>

**Bulgarian Version of Cinderella (Bulgaria)**  
<https://fairytales.com/cinderella-bulgarian-version/>

**Ashey Pelt (Ireland)**  
<https://fairytales.com/ashey-pelt-irish-version-cinderella/>

**Rashin-Coatie (Scotland)** <https://fairytales.com/rashin-coatie/>

**Cenerentola (Italy)** <https://fairytales.com/cinderella/>

**Chinye (Kenya)**  
[www.365cinderellas.com/2011/05/cinderella-129-chinye-west-african.html](http://www.365cinderellas.com/2011/05/cinderella-129-chinye-west-african.html)

**The Hearth Cat (Portugal)** <https://fairytales.com/the-hearth-cat/>

**Fair, Brown, and Trembling (Ireland, from the Celtic tradition)**  
<https://fairytales.com/fair-brown-and-trembling/>

**Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper (France)**  
<https://fairytales.com/cinderella-little-glass-slipper-2/>

**The Magic Orange Tree (Haiti)** <http://spiritoftrees.org/the-magic-orange-tree>