

Module 2: Short Stories

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Plot Example - Cinderella

Exposition

Cinderella's father dies, and she is left to live with her evil stepmother and wicked stepsisters. She is made to do all of the work in the household and to wait hand and foot on her stepmother and stepsisters.

Rising Action

Cinderella wants to go to the prince's ball, but her family will not let her. Her fairy godmother magically transforms her rags into a dress, a pumpkin into a coach, and mice into horses. She tells her that the magic will end at midnight. Cinderella goes to the ball and catches the eye of the prince; they dance late into the night.

Climax

Cinderella realizes that it is almost midnight, so she runs away from the prince and leaves the ball. As she leaves, she loses her glass slipper on the castle steps. The magic expires while she is on her way home, and everything turns back to what it was, except the lost slipper which the prince finds.

Falling Action

The prince is determined to find the woman with whom he danced the entire evening. He decrees that every female in the land be fitted for the tiny glass slipper she left behind.

Resolution

Cinderella is the only one in the land whose foot fits in the delicate shoe. She is reunited with the prince, and they get married and live "happily ever after."