

Ella Enchanted

by Gail Carson Levine

Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Laurie Rozakis, Ph.D.

A Perma-Bound Production

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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1 When baby Ella cried at birth, the fairy Lucinda gave her the gift of obedience. Ella's mother, the Lady Eleanor, and Mandy the cook were horrified, but Lucinda refused to rescind her "gift." The fairy's curse put Ella in terrible danger, but there was no way to find Lucinda and have her remove the curse. Realizing the danger, Ella's mother ordered her daughter to keep her curse a secret from everyone in the kingdom of Frell, where they live. When Ella was fifteen years old, her beloved mother died.

Chap. 2 Ella's father, Lord Peter, returned from his constant trading expeditions for the funeral. After the funeral, Ella ran into the woods to be alone with her grief. There she met Prince Charmont, a charming young man who cheers Ella up for a few moments.

Chap. 3 Ella meets the dreadful Dame Olga and her two equally vulgar daughters, Hattie and Olive. Dame Olga prepares to snare Lord Peter in marriage. After they leave, Mandy reveals that she was Lady Eleanor's fairy godmother.

Chap. 4 Mandy tells Ella that she had made a magic potion for Lady Eleanor to cure her sickness, but Lady Eleanor destroyed its magic. Mandy explains that everyone in Ella's maternal line has fairy blood. Since Ella has only a drop of fairy blood, she cannot perform magic, but as with all fairies, she has tiny feet. Mandy's magical powers are expressed in small ways, especially in her delicious cooking. Larger magical demonstrations, she explains, are too dangerous — as Lucinda's gift shows. Lord Peter has decided to send Ella to finishing school with Dame Olga's two vulgar daughters. Ella is disconsolate at having to leave home and her beloved Mandy.

Chap. 5 Although Lord Peter is impressed with Ella's brave protest against finishing school, he refuses to change his mind. That night, Mandy gives Ella a book of fairy tales and her mother's magnificent necklace made by gnomes.

Chap. 6 The next morning, Prince Charmont visits. Delighted by Ella's wit and beauty, he admits his admiration. Ella reveals her talent for languages when she quiets a gnome child by speaking gnomish.

Chap. 7 Ella departs with Hattie and Olive to their new school. On the trip, Hattie takes Ella's necklace. She realizes that Ella must do as she is commanded.

Chap. 8 Olive forces Ella to relinquish the money Lord Peter had given her. Disconsolate, Ella reads her magical fairy tale book that shows ever-changing scenes. The next day, Hattie

makes Ella her servant and refuses to let her eat.

Chap. 9 At first, school is a disaster because Ella cannot do anything correctly, especially sew. When Ella makes a friend, the lovely and gentle Areida from Amonta, school becomes bearable.

Chap. 10 Ella reads in her book that Char was furious that she had been sent away. The only subjects Ella can do easily are writing and penmanship.

Chap. 11 Hattie continues to torment Ella. Areida is Ella's only comfort. Soon, even that comfort is taken away when Hattie orders Ella to end her friendship with Areida.

Chap. 12 Ella reads in her book that fairies like to go to weddings. She decides to sneak out of school, try to find Lucinda at the giants' wedding, and get the fairy to remove the spell. As Ella leaves, she steals Hattie's wig, revealing her thin hair.

Chap. 13 Ella travels for days. On the sixth day, she meets an elf, who treats her to a much-needed meal. Slannen the elf gives Ella a magnificent wolf statue made by the famous elf Agulen—a prize they had refused to sell to Lord Peter. The elves also give Ella a pony and much food.

Chap. 14 The next morning, Ella awakens to discover she has been taken prisoner by the ogres. They have already eaten the pony and are preparing to eat her. Ella listens carefully, learns some of their language, and convinces the ogres that they are not hungry. The ogres fall asleep and Ella is spared for the moment.

Chap. 15 To Ella's relief, Char and his knights approach. They have plugged their ears with wax so they are immune to the ogres' blandishments. Ella explains all about school and her plan to go to the giants' wedding.

Chap. 16 Sir Stephan escorts Ella to the giants' wedding.

Chap. 17 They arrive at the wedding. The giant Uazee welcomes them with great generosity. After the beautiful wedding ceremony, Lucinda reveals her horrible gift to the giant couple: the gift of always being together.

Chap. 18 Ella bravely approaches Lucinda, even though she overhears that Lucinda turns people who displease her into squirrels. They speak, and Ella thinks the curse has been turned into a blessing. Lord Peter reveals that he is broke and plans to marry Ella off to regain his fortune via her dowry. Back home, Lord Peter orders Mandy to cook a great meal with enchanted mushrooms.

Chap. 19 Lord Peter wants Ella to marry old Edmund, Earl of Wolleck. Bewitched by the mushrooms, Ella falls in love with him. That night, Mandy awakens Ella to explain that Lucinda has given Ella an ordinary command about being happy to obey.

Ella sobs with relief and anger. Lord Peter decides Ella won't marry the Earl because he isn't rich. Instead, Lord Peter will marry Dame Olga!

Chap. 20 Lucinda shows up at the wedding and bestows the terrible gift of eternal love on Lord Peter and Dame Olga.

Chap. 21 Ella and Char find magic glass slippers that fit Ella perfectly.

Chap. 22 When she discovers that Lord Peter is penniless, Olga takes everything of value Ella possesses. She also refuses to let Char see Ella, reserving him for Hattie. Distraught, Ella writes him a letter.

Chap. 23 When Lord Peter leaves on a trading trip, Ella is confined to a garret and made a servant.

Chap. 24 Char and Ella exchange letters, but Ella does not reveal what horrible fate has befallen her. Char declares his love and desire to marry her.

Chap. 25 Ella realizes that she cannot marry Char because she could be ordered to betray him. With sorrow, Ella writes Char a letter, lying that she plans to marry someone else. Char writes a sorrowful letter back. Mandy convinces Lucinda to turn into a squirrel to see if her gifts are really welcome. Lucinda realizes that her gifts aren't welcome and promises never to bestow them again. Ella begs Lucinda to remove her gift of obedience.

Chap. 26 Lucinda cannot rescind her gift because she won't perform big magic. Char holds a series of balls to find a wife, and Lucinda serves as Ella's fairy godmother.

Chap. 27 Masked, Ella dances and speaks with Char. They feel a strong bond.

Chap. 28 Hattie unmask Ella at the end of the ball, when Ella is dancing with Char.

Chap. 29 At midnight, Ella leaves before her clothing and coach revert to their former state. In her haste, Ella loses one of her slippers. Char finds Ella, the slipper fits, and Ella admits her love. Char proposes but Ella refuses, the first time she has disobeyed an order. Ella admits she is cursed. Mandy reveals that Ella has broken the curse, rescuing herself when she rescued the prince.

Epilogue Ella and Char are married. She doesn't invite her stepfamily, but Areida attends and she and Ella renew their friendship. Lucinda, uninvited, arrives with a useful gift. Hattie never marries, but Olive does. Mandy lives with Ella and Char as a cook and the godmother to their children. They live happily ever after.

BACKGROUND ON THE CINDERELLA STORY

"Cinderella," one of the best-known fairy tales, has nearly 350 variations and can be traced back as far as 850-60 CE, where a version was written down in China. This version includes an evil stepmother and stepsisters, a festival where Cinderella (Yeh-hsien) loses her shoe, and a local warlord who wishes to marry the owner of the shoe. However, there is also a magical golden fish which appears in the pond and comforts Yeh-hsien, until the stepmother has it killed. Cinderella uses the fish bones to create magic.

In "Rashin Coatie," the Scottish version of the tale, Cinderella's dead mother returns in the form of a calf, who helps Cinderella. In the version recounted by the German Grimm brothers, a hazel tree grows over the dead mother's grave, and the tree shakes down the dresses Cinderella wears to the ball. It also shelters the doves which help and protect her, and in the end

peck out the sisters' eyes. The Grimms' version also includes the sisters hacking off their heels and toes in order to squeeze their feet into the shoes.

The most famous version of the story in the West can be credited to Charles Perrault. This variation gives Cinderella the pumpkin, mice, and fairy godmother.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gail Carson Levine was born in New York City on September 17, 1947. When she was twenty years old, she married David Levine, a software developer. Two years later, Levine completed her bachelor's degree at the City College of the City University of New York.

Levine didn't start out as a children's writer, however. Instead, her career has been involved with helping people find work. To that end, she first took a job with the New York State Department of Labor as an employment interviewer. Twelve years later, she took a position with the New York State Department of Commerce in New York City as an administrative assistant. This was followed by a ten-year stint as welfare administrator for the New York State Department of Social Services. In addition to writing, Levine currently works as a welfare administrator with the New York State Department of Labor.

"I didn't plan to be a writer," Levine notes, "even though I started writing early. In elementary school I was a charter member of the Scribble Scrabble Club, and in high school my poems were published in an anthology of student poetry, but my ambition was to act or to be a painter like my older sister. My interest in the theater led to my first writing experience as an adult. My husband David wrote the music and lyrics, and I wrote the book for a children's musical, *Spacenapped*, and that was produced by a neighborhood theater in Brooklyn."

Levine based *Ella Enchanted* on the Cinderella story because it already had a plot. To make the traditional character more complex, Levine came up with the curse: Ella is only good because she has to be, and she is in constant rebellion against the two sides of her character. "Many people are cursed with obedience and with attending too much to other people's expectations," Levine explains. "We are cursed with constraints on our freedom to act as we wish, even uncertainty about what we wish. I know I am!"

CRITIC'S CORNER

Ella Enchanted has won a number of prestigious awards, including being named a Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Young Adults citations, American Library Association, and Newbery Honor Book, American Library Association, all in 1998.

The New York Times Book Review called *Ella Enchanted* "A high-spirited, comic first novel"; Booklist was equally positive. "The canon of retold fairy tales encompasses some distinguished titles, among them, Robin McKinley's *Beauty* (1978) and Donna J. Napoli's *Zel* (1996). Now room must be made for Levine's superbly plotted and thoroughly enjoyable retelling of the Cinderella story," reviewer Ilene Cooper noted. "As finely designed as a tapestry, Ella's story both neatly incorporates elements of the original tale and mightily expands them, not only with the myriad consequences of the curse but also with a heroine so spirited that she wins readers' hearts."

Kirkus Reviews said: "Levine plays her debut expansion of

the Cinderella story as a straight—well, nearly straight—romance, sloughing off its layers of Freudian symbolism and creating a lively, stubborn heroine to keep the action tumbling along....This refreshing take on one of the world's most popular fairy tales preserves the spirit of the original but adds plenty of humorous twists and a spunky, intelligent female lead."

LEVINE'S OTHER WORKS

Cinderellis and the Glass Hill (2000)
Dave at Night (1999)
The Fairy's Mistake (1999)
Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep (1999)
The Princess Test (1999)
The Wish (2000)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALAN Review, Fall, 1997.
Booklist, April 15, 1997, p. 1423.
Contemporary Authors Online. The Gale Group, 1999.
Horn Book, May-June, 1997, p. 325.
Kirkus Reviews, February 1, 1997, p. 225.
Publishers Weekly, March 31, 1997, p. 75; June 30, 1997, p. 28.
School Library Journal, April, 1997, p. 138.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize elements of fantasy
2. To assess each character's personality
3. To recognize the novel's theme
4. To appreciate the danger of unquestioning obedience
5. To understand the novel's title
6. To explore the ways kindness can be shown
7. To find examples of bravery and courage
8. To sympathize with the main character's plight
9. To describe the novel's mood or atmosphere
10. To appreciate the novel's irony

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To understand how Ella lifts the curse as a result of her selflessness and devotion
2. To judge the affect of ill-conceived, thoughtless gestures
3. To probe the relationship between Ella and Mandy
4. To see how the author varies the traditional "Cinderella" fairy tale
5. To explore fairy tales and fantasy
6. To look into the relationship between Ella and her family
7. To understand the plot structure
8. To compare and contrast Ella, Hattie, and Olive
9. To grasp the author's use of irony
10. To visualize the story's action

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Gail Carson Levine's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

irony occurs when something happens that is different from what was expected. In *verbal irony*, there is a contrast between what is stated and what is suggested. In *dramatic irony*, there is a contrast between what a character believes and what the audience knows is true. In *irony of situation*, an event reverses what the readers or characters expected. For example, we get dramatic irony on page 160 when Hattie believes that Char admires her; however, readers realize that he thinks her shallow and foolish. On

page 190, we get irony of situation when Ella lies to Char and says she cannot marry him because she is going to be married to an old man.

humor is parts of a story that are funny. Humor can be created through sarcasm, word play, irony, and exaggeration. Levine uses irony and word play to make *Ella Enchanted* amusing and fun to read. For example, on page 166, Ella describes Hattie as "clever as she is beautiful," when she is neither.

suspense is the feeling of tension or anticipation an author creates in a work. Authors create suspense by unexpected plot twists. This keeps readers interested in the story and makes them want to read on to find out what will happen. Levine creates suspense in *Ella Enchanted* in many instances. For example, in Chapters 28 and 29, readers wonder if Char will figure out Ella's identity—and if he does, what will he do?

Later in the novel, the exciting twists and turns also create suspense. Will Ella accept Char's proposal? Will she reveal the curse? Will the curse be lifted? These plot twists, and others like them, make *Ella Enchanted* compelling reading.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

Fiction

Lloyd Alexander, *The Black Cauldron* and *The Castle of Llyr*
 Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Little Princess*
 Shirley Climo, *The Egyptian Cinderella*
 Jewell Reinhart Coburn, *Angkat: The Cambodian Cinderella* and *Jouanah: A Hmong Cinderella*
 Alvin Granowsky, et al., *Cinderella/That Awful Cinderella: A Classic Tale (Point of View)*
 Margaret Peterson Haddix, *Just Ella*
 Margaret Hillert, *Cinderella at the Ball*
 Wendy Loggia, *Ever After: A Cinderella Story*
 Gregory Maguire, *The Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*
 Robin McKinley, *Beauty*
 Mike Thaler, *Cinderella Bigfoot (Happily Ever Laughter)*
 David Henry Wilson, *The Coachman Rat*
 Jane Yolen, *Briar Rose*

Collections

Grimm Brothers, *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*
 Virginia Hamilton, *Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales*
 Jane Yolen, *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls*

Nonfiction

Kate Bernheimer, *Mirror, Mirror On The Wall: Women Explore Their Favorite Fairy Tales*
 Adeline Yen Mah, *Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*

Internet

"Cinderella Main Page,"
www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/cinderella/cinderella.html
 "The Cinderella Project,"
www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/cinderella/cinderella.html

Videos/DVDs

Ashpet: An American Cinderella (1990)
Cinderella (Disney, 1950)
Cinderella (Fairie Tale Theatre, 1984)
Cindy (1978)
Ever After (1998)
Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (1964)

The Slipper and the Rose (1976)

Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China (1992)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Gail Carson Levine's *Ella Enchanted* should include these aspects:

Themes

- bravery
- confusion
- family love
- fear
- food
- friendship
- humor
- mystery
- self-indulgence
- prejudice

Motifs

- being brave in terrifying situations
- the use and misuse of enchantment
- family love and support
- fear of outsiders
- the importance of sacrifice and selflessness
- random acts of kindness
- solving mysteries
- the importance of learning new things
- using common sense
- why we must cooperate and help others

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. That fool of a fairy Lucinda did not intend to lay a curse on me. (Chap. 1, p. 3)
(At birth, Ella is cursed by the arrogant fairy named Lucinda, who bestows on her the "gift" of obedience. Anything anyone tells her to do, Ella must obey. How can Ella survive if she knows that at any time, anyone can order her to hop on one foot, cut off her hand, or betray her kingdom—and she'll have to obey?)
2. "Instead of making me docile, Lucinda's curse made a rebel of me. Or perhaps I was that way naturally." (Chap. 1, p. 5)
(Another girl might have been cowed by Lucinda's curse of obedience, but not feisty Ella. The novel examines traditional female roles in fairy tales and shows how they affect both genders.)
3. I wouldn't add to her pleasure. "I'm not hungry," I announced. (Chap. 9, p. 65)
(Bound by obedience against her will, Ella takes matters in her own hands with ambition and verve. In this scene, Ella refuses to admit that she is starving and so asserts her will against both the Sewing Mistress and Hattie. Ella's determination and courage make her a most appealing heroine.)
4. I smiled at Char. For some reason, he blushed. (Chap. 15, p. 108)
(Char is attracted to Ella because she is intelligent, courageous, and self-sufficient as well as beautiful and well-born. In this scene, Ella has yet to realize the depth and sincerity of Char's affections.)

5. Wolleck appeared at dawn to request my permission to declare his intentions to you. (Chap. 19, p. 141)
(Ella's father intends to marry her to a much-older man, Wolleck, in an effort to bolster the family's depleted finances. By a lucky turn of fate, Wolleck is himself fallen upon hard times. Lord Peter's plans for his daughter follow the conventions of the traditional fairy tale.)
6. But I think I've loved you since we met at your mother's funeral. (Chap. 24, p. 181)
(In this letter to Ella, Char declares his love and desire to marry her. Their relationship is balanced and based on humor and mutual respect—very unlike the traditional fairy tale. In fact, Ella is not waiting for Prince Charmont to carry her off, although she loves him very much. In fact, it is she who rescues him.)
7. "What did I bring on those poor, innocent people?" Chap. 25, p. 193
(Lucinda the fairy realizes that her "gifts" were really curses. She understands that she has been careless and arrogant in assuming that she knew that was best for everyone. The adults and villains in traditional fairy tales rarely realize the error of their ways until it is far too late to make amends.)
8. "That's only Cinders the scullery maid." (Chap. 29, p. 222)
(As in the traditional Cinderella story, Ella has been relegated to the status of servant in her own home, under the thrall of her wicked stepmother and two stupid and evil stepsisters. In its broad outlines, the novel follows the traditional story. However, instead of a demure heroine patiently awaiting a prince who will carry her off, this Ella is a feisty ball of fire with the courage and ambition to take matters into her own hands.)
9. "I'm cursed. You wouldn't be safe if I were your wife." (Epilogue, pp. 227-228)
(In her determination to rescue her prince, Ella rescues herself by breaking the curse of obedience. Ella's rebellion and selfless love provide her salvation.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the novel take place?
(The novel takes place in the mythical kingdom of Frell, a land of fairies, ogres, gnomes, and all sorts of wondrous make-believe creatures. The time is not stated.)
2. Why does Lucinda give Ella the gift of obedience?
(Lucinda believes she is being generous and helpful by creating a docile and dutiful child. She doesn't understand the hardship and even tragedy that her gift can cause.)
3. Who is Mandy and what is her relationship to Lady Eleanor and Ella?
(Mandy is their fairy godmother, working as their cook and nanny to watch over them. Mandy loves both Lady Eleanor and her daughter Ella very much.)
4. Why does Ella run away from finishing school?
(She wants to attend the giants' wedding because her father

Lord Peter had written that fairies usually attend weddings. Ella hopes to meet Lucinda at the wedding and get the fairy to release her from the obedience spell.)

5. According to Mandy, how can you identify a fairy?
(*All fairies have very small feet. Female fairies hide them under their skirts; male fairies stuff larger shoes. In addition, fairies can appear and disappear at will, although not all choose to exercise this power.*)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why do Dame Olga's daughters treat Ella so cruelly?
(*Dame Olga's daughters may be jealous of Ella's beauty and spirit and are simply nasty and spiteful girls. It is important to note that initially at least, Ella does not deliberately give them any cause for anger or jealousy.*)
7. How would you describe the relationship between Ella and Prince Charmont?
(*The Prince falls in love with Ella the first time they meet, at her mother's funeral. He is bowled over by her wit, learning, spunk, and intelligence. Although she is young and inexperienced, Ella recognizes his feelings as genuine and returns them.*)
8. What parts of this story are realistic? What parts are fantasy?
(*Ella's spirit and the cruelty she faces are realistic; the mythical creatures—fairies, giants, ogres, and so on—are clearly fantasy. It is realistic that a mother would die and a father would try to arrange a marriage for his daughter based on economic advantage. It is also realistic that a child would attend a cruel and repressive school, fall in love with a kind and handsome man, and make her own decisions.*)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. In what ways is Ella a stereotypical fairy tale princess? In what ways does she not fit the mold?
(*As is typical in fairy tales, Ella lives in a castle and has a fairy godmother. She falls in love with Prince Charmont (Charming) and is later treated with great cruelty by her wicked stepmother and stepsisters. It is not typical, however, that Ella would show such intelligence and spirit and take matters into her own hands. Further, it is clearly a reversal of the stereotype that Ella would rescue the prince.*)
10. What can readers learn from Ella's experiences?
(*Readers can learn the importance of hard work, self-determination, and individuality. They can learn to control their own destiny rather than waiting for someone to control and lead them.*)

Questions 11 and 12 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Ella's situation had you been in her place.
12. Make a chart that shows how *Ella Enchanted* is similar to and different from the traditional Cinderella story.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art, Music, and Dance

1. Create the statue that Slannen the elf gives to Ella. Use clay, Plaster of Paris, or some other modeling material.
2. Compose or locate a piece of music that might lull the evil ogres into submission. Play the music and explain why you

believe it might soothe the savage beasts.

3. Draw at least three new pictures for the novel. Explain where they fit in the story.
4. Make an invitation the giants might have sent to their wedding guests, such as elves, humans, or fairies. Be sure to suit the scale of the invitation to the recipients you select.
5. Design a new cover for *Ella Enchanted*. Include at least three symbols or scenes from the novel to show its topic and theme.
6. Create the beautiful necklace that belonged to Lady Eleanor, the necklace that Hattie stole from Ella on the way to school. You can string and paint existing beads or make your own beads.
7. Design the dress that Ella wore to Prince Charmont's ball. If possible, sew a model of the dress, life-size or to scale.
8. Choreograph one of the dances that Ella might have learned in finishing school and used at Prince Charmont's ball. Perform the dance with a friend.

Language Arts

1. Write a new version of "The Shoemaker and the Elves" for Ella's enchanted book.
2. Draft a letter from Mandy to Ella that might appear in Ella's enchanted book the day she leaves her home for school.
3. Write a list of manners that Mistress Manners might have taught Ella and her classmates. Be prepared to discuss which rules apply to you and your friends and why.
4. Imagine you are Lucinda. Write five spells that people would really want to receive.
5. Poor Olive! She is just about illiterate! Select one of her letters from the novel and rewrite it, correcting the spelling, grammar, and usage.
6. In your own words, explain the difference between "big magic" and "small magic."

Foreign Language

1. Ella is skilled at languages. Working with a partner, learn several words in a new language and use them to have a dialogue.
2. Make an alphabet book with simple words from a commonly-spoken language, such as Spanish, French, Italian, or German. Use the book to teach the words to a group of younger children. Then place the book in their classroom library.
3. Create a glossary for one of the mythical languages in the book, such as Ayorthaian.

Math

1. Create a chart showing the relative size of each of the creatures included in the book, such as elves, fairies, humans, ogres, and giants. Be sure to create a scale to make your chart accurate, such as 1 inch = 1 foot.
2. Lord Peter gives Ella a purse of money to support her for a year in school. Poll your classmates or read a child's consumer magazine such as *Zillions* (a publication of *Consumer Reports*) to find out how much money the average child receives a week for allowance. Then devise three different ways to spend this amount each month.
3. Lord Peter plans to marry Ella to a wealthy man, but cancels his plans when he finds out that the old man isn't wealthy after all. Find out how much the average American family

needs to earn to be considered “middle class,” “upper middle class,” and “rich.”

Science and Health

1. Mandy is upset that Lord Peter wishes her to cook with enchanted mushrooms. Find out how to cook mushrooms. Then determine their nutritional value.
2. Hattie has very thin hair. Find out several reasons why a teenager might lose his or her hair. Explain how each condition can be alleviated or cured.
3. Ella is very hungry during her ride to school and later while traveling to the giant’s wedding. List some healthful and easy snacks she might have carried with her.

Social Studies

1. Many of the creatures in Frell live in harmony, except for the ogres. Write some rules that the king could use to prevent the ogres from infringing on the civil liberties of others. Then explain how you could adapt those rules for your own class and school.
2. Make a map of the kingdom, showing all the different places included in the novel such as Ayortha and Frell.
3. Prepare a timeline of the major events in the novel. Include at least ten events.
4. Read another version of the Cinderella story. In an essay, compare and contrast that story to *Ella Enchanted*, showing how each version draws from its culture and reflects those cultural values.
5. Create a map showing the route Ella took from school to the wedding and back home.

Speech

1. Mandy makes the most delicious foods! Select a family recipe and write it out in either metric or American measurements. Demonstrate to a small group of classmates how to make the dish.
2. Recast the novel as a radio play. Perform the play for the class.
3. Watch one of the Cinderella movies listed in this guide. In a brief speech, critique the movie. Explain what new insights you learned about the Cinderella story from the film.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Write a news release announcing the wedding of Ella and Prince Charmont.
2. Levine has this advice for aspiring writers: “Suspend judgment of your work and keep writing. Take advantage of the wonderful community of writers for children—who are always ready with helpful criticism and support in the struggle to succeed. And be patient—writing and glaciers advance at about the same pace!” Explain how you might apply this advice to your own writing.
3. Create a TV panel discussion debating how Lucinda should be taught a lesson about giving inappropriate and harmful gifts.
4. Explain the novel’s theme or message.
5. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.
6. Briefly explain why Levine selected the Cinderella story as the basis of her novel rather than another fairy tale, such as “The Elves and the Shoemaker.”

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of lessons that you have learned the hard way as well as the easy way.
2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate how Ella is independent.
3. Compose a scene in which Ella’s own daughter decides to rebel. Show how Ella and Charmont deal with her defiance.
4. Make a character list and describe each character.

VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. shawl | a. unlucky |
| _____ 2. docile | b. copious |
| _____ 3. smugly | c. rejected |
| _____ 4. stately | d. completely surrounded |
| _____ 5. abandoned | e. china |
| _____ 6. candelabra | f. undying |
| _____ 7. erupted | g. cloak |
| _____ 8. imitate | h. drinking glass |
| _____ 9. lass | i. questioned |
| _____ 10. engulfed | j. elegant |
| _____ 11. abundant | k. candlestick holder |
| _____ 12. immortal | l. arrogant |
| _____ 13. petticoat | m. submissive |
| _____ 14. shards | n. broken pieces |
| _____ 15. porcelain | o. copy |
| _____ 16. interrogated | p. self-complacently |
| _____ 17. voluminous | q. blew up |
| _____ 18. goblet | r. young girl |
| _____ 19. hapless | s. slip |
| _____ 20. haughty | t. bulky |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements. Place your answers in the blanks provided in the sentences.

1. When Ella is born, the fairy _____ gives her the curse of obedience.
2. Mandy works as the family _____, even though she is really Lady Eleanor's fairy godmother.
3. Ella and her family live in the magical, mythical kingdom of _____.
4. After Ella's mother dies, Lord Peter decides to send Ella to _____ to be educated.
5. On the coach, Hattie makes Ella give up her mother's _____.
6. Before Ella runs away to find the giant's wedding, she gets revenge on Hattie by stealing her _____.
7. On the way to the wedding, Hattie meets some kindly _____ who give her food, a horse, and a beautiful statue.
8. The next day, Ella wakes up to discover that the _____ have eaten the horse...and want to eat her!
9. When he loses all his money, Lord Peter decides to marry _____.
10. At the wedding, Char and Ella find a pair of _____.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will have choices left over.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| A. Ella | F. Dame Olga | K. Seef |
| B. Mandy | G. Olive | L. Julia |
| C. Lady Eleanor | H. Hattie | M. King Jerrold |
| D. Lord Peter | I. Edmund, Earl of Wolleck | N. Music Mistress |
| E. Prince Charmont | J. Dame Edith | O. Areida |

- _____ 1. The elderly man whom Lord Peter wants his daughter to marry
- _____ 2. Ella's best friend at school
- _____ 3. Ella's mother
- _____ 4. The headmistress at Ella's school
- _____ 5. Lord Peter's second wife
- _____ 6. Ella's stupid and ill-educated step-sister
- _____ 7. the cruel ogre who wants to eat Ella
- _____ 8. Ella's surrogate mother, the family's cook
- _____ 9. Ella's father, a merchant and trader away on frequent trips
- _____ 10. The man Ella marries at the end of the novel

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Ella's mother is really Mandy the cook, a fairy in disguise.
- _____ 2. Prince Charmont is a handsome, well-mannered, kind young man
- _____ 3. The elves refuse to sell their statues to Lord Peter, but they give one to Ella for free.
- _____ 4. When Ella first arrived at school, she amazed the sewing teacher with her fine, small stitches.
- _____ 5. The other girls at school make fun of Ella and treat her very badly.
- _____ 6. Char speaks ogre language and rescues Ella from the cruel creatures.
- _____ 7. At the giants' wedding, Lucinda has finally learned her lesson and so does not give the newlyweds a wedding gift.
- _____ 8. After Lord Peter goes away, Dame Olga and her daughters treat Ella like a scullery maid, taking her possessions and ordering her around all day long.
- _____ 9. Mandy and Lucinda use big, dangerous magic to rescue Ella.
- _____ 10. Ella forgives her wicked stepmother and step-sisters and invites them all to her wedding. Afterward, they all live together happily in the castle.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Compare and contrast Hattie and Ella.
- 2. Explain how Ella does not fit the mold of the traditional fairy tale princess.
- 3. Describe the hardships Ella faces and how she overcomes them.
- 4. Explain why Mandy won't use magic often, but Lucinda will.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

1. Ella is especially skilled at (languages, math), which saves her life on several occasions.
2. At first, Dame Olga loves Lord Peter for his (appearance, money).
3. Areida is Ella's (evil step-sister, best friend).
4. The elves give Ella a rare and beautiful (statue, necklace) that she treasures.
5. Lord Peter works as a (trader, cook) around the country.
6. On the way to school, Hattie and Olga do not allow Ella to (sleep, eat).
7. After she turns into a (giant, squirrel) Lucinda realizes that her gifts are curses rather than blessings.
8. Prince Charmont finds Ella at the end of the story by means of a (glass slipper, magic glove)
9. At first, Ella refuses to marry Prince Charmont because she is afraid of the (ogres, curse).
10. Lucinda gives the Char and Ella a (blessing, box) as a wedding gift.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. You will have choices left over.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| A. Seef | F. Ella | K. Dame Olga |
| B. Mandy | G. Olive | L. Prince Charmont |
| C. Lady Eleanor | H. Hattie | M. King Jerrold |
| D. Lord Peter | I. Edmund, Earl of Wolleck | N. Lucinda |
| E. Julia | J. Dame Edith | O. Areida |

- _____ 1. Lady Eleanor's husband
- _____ 2. the main character, a young princess who knows her own mind
- _____ 3. the mother of Olive and Hattie
- _____ 4. Ella's closest friend at school, also an outcast
- _____ 5. the family cook and Ella's stand-in mother
- _____ 6. the elderly man Ella's father initially wants her to marry
- _____ 7. the man Ella eventually marries
- _____ 8. the ogre who eats Ella's horse
- _____ 9. the girls whose wig Ella steals to repay her meanness
- _____ 10. Lord of all of the kingdom of Frell

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each phrase below with a reason or justification.

1. Lucinda gives Ella the curse of obedience because
2. According to Mandy, Ella's mother died because
3. Lord Peter decides to send Ella away because
4. Ella runs away from school because
5. The ogre doesn't eat Ella because
6. Lord Peter marries for a second time because
7. The elves give Ella a wonderful gift because
8. At first, Ella refuses to marry Charmont because
9. The curse is lifted because
10. Ella marries Prince Charmont because

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare and contrast Lady Eleanor and Dame Olga, showing how they are the same and different.
2. Explain why Ella is an admirable character.
3. Analyze why Hattie and Olive treat Ella so cruelly.
4. Account for Lucinda's change of personality.

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. g | 11. b |
| 2. m | 12. f |
| 3. p | 13. s |
| 4. j | 14. n |
| 5. c | 15. e |
| 6. k | 16. i |
| 7. q | 17. t |
| 8. o | 18. h |
| 9. r | 19. a |
| 10. d | 20. l |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lucinda | 6. wig |
| 2. cook | 7. elves |
| 3. Frell | 8. ogres |
| 4. finishing school | 9. Dame Olga |
| 5. necklace | 10. glass slippers |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. I. | 6. G |
| 2. O | 7. K |
| 3. C | 8. B |
| 4. J | 9. D |
| 5. F | 10. E |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. languages | 6. eat |
| 2. money | 7. squirrel |
| 3. best friend | 8. glass slipper |
| 4. statue | 9. curse |
| 5. trader | 10. box |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. I |
| 2. F | 7. L |
| 3. K | 8. A |
| 4. O | 9. H |
| 5. B | 10. M |

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

1. she thinks her gifts are wonderful and appreciated
2. she removed the hair from the curing soup that Mandy prepared for her, destroying the magic
3. he wants her to grow up to be a "proper" young woman
4. she wants to attend the giants' wedding and find Lucinda. She hopes Lucinda will remove the curse.
5. she charms him in his language
6. he has lost his fortune and Dame Olga is rich
7. they like her a lot
8. she is afraid she can be made to betray or even kill him, all because of the curse
9. Ella rescues herself when she rescues the prince
10. the curse is lifted; she loves him

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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