

Footnotes

1. **Gentleman:** Cinderella's status as a gentleman's daughter makes her more acceptable as a future king's consort. It also places her above the status of peasant. Cinderella is not usually a rags-to-riches tale, but a riches-to-rags-to-riches tale.
2. **Mother:** With over 340 versions of Cinderella, many variations of the story exist. Although this Perrault version does not mention Cinderella's mother beyond this reference, many versions have the dead mother providing assistance to her daughter in either animal form or through magical objects which appear from a tree on the mother's grave (the Grimms' version uses the tree).
3. **Stepmother:** The stepmother is a common villain in fairy tales. The stepmother has been a villain since the earliest known versions of the *Cinderella* tale. The competition between the two women for the husband/father's affection provides a logical reason for the stepmother's cruelty.
4. **Meanest work of the house:** The meanest work would be the filthiest, harshest and most demeaning work in the household, such as scrubbing floors and emptying chamber pots.
5. **Garret:** A garret is a room directly under the roof, or in other words, an attic.
6. **Straw bed:** Until this century, straw beds were a common type of bedding for all but the supremely rich who could afford goose beds or other more expensive mattresses. Straw was used as the stuffing for the mattress.
7. **Floors all inlaid:** Inlaid floors are parquet floors and were common in more elegant homes in previous centuries.
8. **Looking-glasses:** In other words, mirrors. Mirrors are also a sign of luxury and wealth. In fairy tales, mirrors can be representative of a character's true nature which they reflect.

Here the mirrors represent the stepsisters' vanity and the family's wealth. The fact that the family owns mirrors large enough to give a full reflection of a person from head to toe shows that they have been extremely wealthy and thus powerful at least in the past if not Cinderella's present.
9. **Father:** Cinderella's father is absent but not dead in most of the older versions of the tale. Since the conflict between Cinderella and her stepfamily is domestic, it can be assumed her father does not interfere in what was considered a woman's domain.
10. **Cinders and ashes:** Ashes are a symbol of mourning. Cinderella, perhaps unwittingly, mourns for her mother and her own predicament in an unfriendly household by being covered in ashes.
11. **Cinderwench:** According to Webster's Dictionary, a wench is a "young woman."
12. **Cinderella:** Some versions of the tale explain that Cinderella's true name is Ella to account for the nickname.
13. **Handsome than her sisters:** Her beauty shows that Cinderella is more virtuous and good than her sisters. In the past, and often still today, physical beauty was considered to reflect the true nature of a person.
14. **King's son:** A prince is the suitor and a common character in romantic fairy tales such as this one. In several modern interpretations of the tale, the prince is a reluctant suitor, forced into the search for a wife, until he happily falls in love with Cinderella.
15. **Ball:** A ball is a large party in which the participants dress up in their finest clothes and dance. Balls were exclusively for the privileged and wealthy.
16. **Gowns, petticoats, and head-clothes:** Perrault's experience and interest in fancy dress is emphasized in his version of Cinderella. He provides more detail and description of the ball clothes than most other versions of the tale.
17. **Plaited their ruffles:** Ironing and plaiting ruffles would be tedious work with old fashioned irons.

18. **Red:** Red is a color of passion and brilliance. It demands attention, which the sisters are hoping for in their pursuit of the prince for marriage.
19. **Manteau:** A manteau is a cloak but occasionally refers to a woman's gown.
20. **Diamond stomacher:** A stomacher is worn over the breast or chest. At one time it was fashionable for both women and men to wear stomachers. Women's stomachers were often highly ornamented.
21. **Red brushes and patches from Mademoiselle de la Poche:** Red brushes and patches were types of make-up worn by society women. Red brushes were usually used like blush and the patches were usually fake beauty marks worn on the face.
22. **She had excellent notions:** Cinderella is an intelligent and artistic woman. She knows how to make clothing appear at its best which was an important skill in her time. She only has rags to wear herself, but she has the taste to work with the finest materials. This was a sign of femininity. Cinderella's willingness to share her dressing skills with her sisters also shows her generous heart.
23. **Two days without eating:** There are a few possibilities for this affliction. Nervousness and excitement can lead to loss of appetite. One cannot help but wonder if the sisters were also considering their tight clothing and corsets. Quick diets before great events were not uncommon in past centuries just as they are today.
24. **Broke above a dozen laces:** In the time of corsets and stays, laces were used to tie up clothes and make the body appear as slim as possible. The image of the stepsisters breaking many laces shows that they are not ideally thin and are trying to conceal their figures by contorting them into slimmer clothing.
25. **She fell a-crying:** In many versions of the tale, Cinderella cries to show her frustration. It is not considered to be weakness but a testament of the terrible burden she bears.
26. **Godmother:** The godmother did not become a common and well-known character in the Cinderella tale until Perrault incorporated her into his version of the story. Other versions of Cinderella in different cultures often have the heroine receive assistance from the deceased mother. The Grimms' version does not use the fairy godmother; a tree planted over the mother's grave provides the materials needed for Cinderella to attend the ball instead. The Scottish version, *Rashin-Coatie*, has a benevolent red calf that provides assistance.
27. **Fairy:** Up until this point, the tale is not magical. The introduction of the fairy godmother provides the elements needed to make this a fairy tale, not necessarily because it has a fairy but because it has magic.

In general, fairy godmothers are supernatural benefactors to their human charges. The fairy godmother figure is derived from the three Fates who were thought to visit a newborn baby and bestow good or ill fortune upon it, such as in the *Sleeping Beauty* tale. The fairy godmother is a wholly benevolent character, however, while the Fates were capable of causing good or evil to occur. Gail Carson Levine explores the possibility of a harmful gift from a fairy godmother in her Cinderella novel, *Ella Enchanted*.
28. **Good girl:** It is important that Cinderella be a "good girl" whose patience and perseverance has earned her the gifts she is about to receive from her godmother.
29. **Pumpkin:** Besides being a suitable shape for a carriage, a pumpkin has several symbolic meanings beyond Halloween imagery. A pumpkin symbolizes feminine containment, the moon, witches, and a charm against evil spirits.
30. **Wand:** A wand is "a slender stick or rod, especially one carried by a fairy, magician, conjurer, etc." A wand often represents the special powers of a magical character. Sometimes it represents the harnessing of those magical powers.
31. **Coach:** The pumpkin coach is a popular image from the Cinderella tale, second only to the glass slipper. The coach itself is a sign of wealth and afforded only by the upper class.

32. **Gold:** Gold, as always, is a precious metal and reserved for the wealthy in past centuries. An entire coach made of gold would be a symbol of great wealth and most likely reserved for royalty.
33. **Mice:** Walt Disney gave the mice personalities and made them important characters in his well-known film of the story. In the older versions, the mice only exist for their necessary transformation into part of Cinderella's grand transportation to the ball.
34. **Rat:** The rat's role in the tale has been explored by some authors in modern times. The film version by Disney uses a horse instead of a rat.
35. **Coachman:** A coachman is the driver of a coach.
36. **Lizards:** The lizards are often portrayed as frogs in illustrations and films of the tale. The Disney version avoids lizards altogether and uses a dog instead.
37. **Six:** Six horses and footmen would be a grand number for a small coach, implying wealth and importance.
38. **Liveries:** Liveries are the uniforms of servants in elegant and wealthy homes.
39. **Equipage:** Equipage is the combined coach, horses, and servants used to transport Cinderella to the palace.
40. **Glass slippers:** One of the most famous elements of the story, the glass slippers are important in many aspects. First, they would be expensive and thus proper footwear for a princess. Second, they represent Cinderella's delicate nature. She would have to be physically light and dainty to be able to wear the shoes without shattering them.

The glass slippers provided by Perrault have also been the source of great debate among folklore scholars. For years, the predominant theory was that the original tale included "fur" (French: vair) and not "glass" (French: verre), but that misprints and mistranslations from French sources have given us the famous glass slippers. Now most scholars believe Perrault intended the shoes to be made of glass to add to their magical quality.

41. **Till after midnight:** Midnight is the most common time given as a deadline in the Cinderella tale. Since midnight marks the beginning of a new day and the end of power in the old day, such a deadline is also reasonable. Many balls would start in the late evening and last until the early morning hours. Cinderella's need to leave at midnight would be an early departure from most balls.
42. **Promised:** Cinderella promises to leave the ball before midnight but ultimately breaks this promise with her late departure. The breaking of the promise gives Cinderella a slight hint of imperfection and humanity.
43. **Great princess:** Not surprisingly, Cinderella is mistaken for a princess thanks to her clothes and carriage. Her grand appearance makes entry into the ball possible despite her anonymity.
44. **A profound silence:** While a dramatic element in the story--one can imagine a storyteller pausing for effect at this point in the story--the silence also shows that everyone at the ball is aware of Cinderella's entrance and suitably impressed by her.
45. **King:** It is important that the king approves of his son's choice in a wife since he has the ability to censure his son and even take away his inheritance and birthright.
46. **Danced so gracefully:** The ability to dance gracefully would be an important feminine trait in this time period.
47. **Collation:** A collation is a meal.
48. **Ate not a morsel:** The prince's inability to eat shows that he is in the throes of first love.
49. **A thousand civilities:** Cinderella's ability to graciously interact with her stepsisters highlights her charm and goodness while emphasizing the stepsisters' vanity. They are unable to recognize the very woman who helped them dress for the ball.

50. **Oranges and citrons:** Citrons are lemons. Both oranges and lemons were delicacies in many parts of Europe before the 20th century. Now food is shipped easily with economy before spoiling making these fruits available to a larger population.
51. **Eleven and three-quarters:** The time is 11:45 and Cinderella has a fifteen minute warning that midnight is approaching. However, she fails to heed the warning.
52. **Thanked her:** To emphasize her goodness once again, Perrault makes sure to have Cinderella thank her fairy godmother for help. This also allows Cinderella the opportunity to wish for help in attending the next ball.
53. **Miss Charlotte:** The stepsisters are rarely named in any Cinderella tale. Perrault's use of a name comes from his literary embellishment of the tale and was a personal choice.
54. **You wear every day:** Cinderella asks only for her sister's everyday dress, not one of her fancy dresses for the ball. Still, her sister refuses to share even her most common dress with Cinderella.
55. **Forgot:** Cinderella breaks her promise to leave the ball before midnight since she is busy with the prince. The forgotten time also provides drama, causing Cinderella to run away and leave behind her shoe, providing the means for her identification later.
56. **Deer:** Perrault does not resist portraying Cinderella as a beautiful and graceful deer even as she runs away in panic and rags.
57. **Who did all they possibly could:** Perrault's story is gentle in imagery, not describing the sisters' efforts in details. In some variants, such as the Grimm's Aschenputtel, the sisters cut off pieces of their feet to try to fit them into the slipper. The blood oozing from the slipper gives them away as impostors.
58. **Wax:** Wax was a common molding material and conforms to any shape in liquid form. Perrault uses the image to emphasize how well the shoe fits Cinderella's foot.
59. **The other slipper:** While the fitting of the lost shoe is romantic and gives Cinderella credibility, she often produces the second shoe in the pair to confirm her identity.
60. **Beg pardon:** The sisters do not always beg for forgiveness in the tale. Sometimes their jealousy grows with Cinderella's good fortune and they are ultimately punished for their lack of charity.
61. **Forgave them:** Although Cinderella rarely metes out punishment upon her sisters in most versions of the tale, other forces often punish her stepfamily for her. In the Grimm's Aschenputtel, birds come and peck out their eyes when they attend Cinderella's church wedding.
62. **No less good than beautiful:** Perrault's desire to emphasize Cinderella's virtuous good shows that she is forgiving and compassionate despite the ill-treatment she received from her stepsisters.
63. **Matched them with two great lords:** The stepsisters suffer various fates, including death or being turned to stone, in various versions of the tale. However, this version has a forgiving Cinderella who provides wealthy husbands for her stepsisters.