

Cinderella Skeleton

 [scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/cinderella-skeleton-discussion-guide](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/cinderella-skeleton-discussion-guide)

Book Summary

In a just slightly-spooky tone that kids are sure to love, award-winning author Robert San Souci retells the Cinderella story with a twist. *Cinderella Skeleton* stars a skeleton in the title role. Just how this Cinderella gets to the ball and what she does once she gets there, make a favorite fairy tale fresh — just in time for Halloween.

Readers will experience a fractured fairy tale, practice their prediction skills, and be introduced to a book-length poem.

Standards:

- Students will make predictions about what will be found in the text
- Students will produce a response to literature

Before Reading

Predictions

Take advantage of the fact that nearly every child is familiar with the story of Cinderella by encouraging each child to make predictions.

1. Talk about the original "Cinderella." If necessary, review the basic plot with your class.
2. Based on that plot and this book's title, ask students to guess what might happen in *Cinderella Skeleton*. Be as specific as possible: Who will be her fairy godmother? Who or what will be her coachmen? Where will the ball be held?
3. Record each child's predictions as a class or have them each make their own list.
4. Talk about the various possibilities that each student comes up with. Are some more likely than others? Why or why not?
5. Be sure to revisit the predictions once you've read the story.

After Reading

Cinderella Who?

Now that students have seen how one author reinvented a fairy tale, it's their turn to give it a try.

1. Ask each student to pick a favorite fairy tale.
2. Encourage each child to be as imaginative as possible in inventing an alternate, or fractured, version of his or her favorite tale.
3. Depending on the skill level of your class, have each child record their retooled fairy tale in words and/or pictures.
4. One at a time, have each student share his or her story with the entire class.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Mr. San Souci retells his Cinderella story in the form of a long poem. Allow your students to express

themselves in a similar fashion.

1. Have each student pick a favorite scene from *Cinderella Skeleton*.
2. Hold a very brief classroom discussion about the various types of poetry: haiku, sonnets, rhyming verses, etc.
3. Ask each to retell the favorite scene in a new poem, recording their revised version on a piece of paper.
4. Or, you may wish to have them choose an incident from their own lives to retell in verse form.
5. If possible, ask students to illustrate their new poems.

Other Books Incorporating Fairy Tales

- [Sootface: An Ojibwa Cinderella Story](#)
By Robert San Souci
Robert San Souci's retelling of the classic story with a Native American protagonist.
- [Grimm's Fairy Tales](#)
By the Brothers Grimm
The classic collection offers fairy tales in their original versions.

Totally fractured fun! The following books by John Scieszka offer hilarious off-kilter takes on popular fairy tales.

- [The Frog Prince Continued](#)
By Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Steve Johnson
- [Squids Will be Squids](#)
By Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith
- [The True Story of the Three Little Pigs](#)
By Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith

Other Books by Robert San Souci

- [The Talking Eggs: A Folktale from the American South](#)
- [The Faithful Friend](#)
- Part of Collection:
[Fairy Tale Genre Study](#), [Halloween](#)
- Subjects:

Language Arts, Compare and Contrast, Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences, Reading Response, Listening and Speaking, Literature Appreciation, Poetry Writing, Early Reading, Early Writing, Halloween

- Skills:

Development of Reading Comprehension, Drawing Conclusions, Making Inferences, Public Speaking, Poetry Writing