



LESSON 1

Introduction to Opera and *Cinderella*

OVERVIEW

Students explore story telling methods, specifically examining the elements of the fairy tale, and learn the story of *Cinderella*. Students are introduced to the opera medium and opera-related vocabulary. Students listen to opera excerpts and identify emotions in music. In this lesson, students are exposed to new art forms, and practice their listening skills.

MATERIALS

- ♦ chart paper and markers
- ♦ CD player
- ♦ COC *Cinderella* Study Guide
- ♦ Reaction Wheel (Worksheet 1.1)

INTRODUCTION TO FAIRY TALES/*CINDERELLA*

- ♦ What stories do you know and how did you hear them?
- ♦ What is a fairy tale and where did they come from? Write your answers on chart paper. *A story with magical elements, orally passed down, all cultures, etc.*
- ♦ Ask students if they are familiar with the story of *Cinderella*. Have them share what they know or remember. Share the plot for this *Cinderella* (see *Cinderella* Study Guide synopsis).
- ♦ Identify the elements of a fairy tale in *Cinderella* – what are the magical elements? Is there a task that brings a reward? Are there good and evil characters?

EXTENSION

This might also be a good place to introduce the many versions of *Cinderella* (see *Cinderella* Study Guide: *Cinderella* Around the World). Ask students to identify the common elements, and what makes them recognizable *Cinderella* stories. Many more versions of the story are easily accessible (see *Cinderella* Study Guide: Resource List).

INTRODUCTION TO OPERA

Suggested discussion questions:

- ♦ How many different ways can you think of to tell a story? i.e. in a play, in a film, with puppets, with a song
- ♦ What do you think an opera is? Write the answers on chart paper, and group them according to music, drama, and design elements.
- ♦ What makes opera different from a play?
- ♦ What do you think you need to put on an opera?

1.1 LISTENING ACTIVITY

Play four musical excerpts, each representing a different emotion. Ask students to complete the Reaction Wheel (Worksheet 1.1). With younger students, fill out the Reaction Wheel as a class.

ASSESSMENT

Students can be assessed on their overall participation and comprehension.

Credit: All lessons for the *Cinderella* School Tour Study Guide were developed by former OISE intern, Miriam Greenblatt.

WORKSHEET 1.1

Reaction Wheel

Things to consider for each excerpt:

- ♦ Do you like this music? Why or why not?
- ♦ Is the music fast or slow? Soft or loud?
- ♦ How do you feel while listening to the song?
- ♦ Do the voices sound different from one another, or the same? In what ways?

The diagram consists of a large circle divided into four equal quadrants by a vertical line and a horizontal line. Each quadrant is connected to an external rectangular box. The boxes are labeled 1), 2), 3), and 4) in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right positions respectively. The boxes are empty, intended for students to write their reactions to the music excerpts.