

Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox

Name: _____ Date: _____

Folktales have main characters that may have really once lived. They are human and have human abilities – but over time their abilities have become larger than life. They are not just strong; they are very, very, very strong. They are not just smart; they are smarter than anyone else. It is often impossible to track down an original author for a folktale.

A fairy tale is a kind of folktale. Fairy tales often have witches and queens, giants and elves, princes, dragons, talking animals, ogres, princesses, and sometimes even fairies. Magical things happen to characters in fairy tales. They often have an author, such as Hans Christian Andersen.

Characteristic	Fairy Tale <i>Cinderella</i>	Folktale <i>Paul Bunyan: Babe the Blue Ox</i>	Differences
Human Characters	Cinderella, her father, stepmother, stepsisters, handsome prince	Paul Bunyan and his logging camp crew	
The main character is likeable.	Cinderella is mistreated but still keeps on trying. She is good and kind to people.	Paul is powerful and strong yet he rescues Babe and cares for his crew.	
Magical Characters	Fairy Godmother	None	
Problem	Cinderella is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.	Paul needs to straighten out the roads so that logging is easier for him and his crew.	
Animals	Mice become horses; birds and other animals can understand Cinderella and help her.	Babe, the blue ox and Bessie the yellow cow are regular animals that grow very large when they are with Paul.	
Magic Numbers	Magic ends on the stroke of midnight	None	
Magic	Shoes turn into glass slippers, a pumpkin turns into a carriage	None	
Solution to Problem	The handsome prince marries Cinderella and she is no longer mistreated. The prince sees to it that the stepmother and the stepsisters are punished.	Paul uses his super strength, and Babe's, to yank roads straight. Bessie makes milk and butter for everyone. Paul knows what is best and how to do what needs to be done.	
Author	Charles Perrault, wrote the version that included glass slippers in France in 1697.	Retold by S. E. Schlosser	
"Cinderella" accessed from: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault		"Babe the Blue Ox" accessed from: http://www.americanfolklore.net/folktales/mn3.html	

Cinderella vs. Babe the Blue Ox Answer Key

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A fairy tale is a kind of folktale. Fairy tales often have witches and queens, giants and elves, princes, dragons, talking animals, ogres, princesses, and sometimes even fairies. Magical things happen to characters in fairy tales. They often have an author, such as Hans Christian Andersen.

Characteristic	Fairy Tale <i>Cinderella</i>	Folktale <i>Paul Bunyan: Babe the Blue Ox</i>	Differences
Human Characters	Cinderella, her father, stepmother, stepsisters, handsome prince	Paul Bunyan and his logging camp crew	All folktales have human characters. Fairy tales also have magical characters. In some fairy tales all the characters are magical.
The main character is likeable.	Cinderella is mistreated but still keeps on trying. She is good and kind to people.	Paul is powerful and strong yet he rescues Babe and cares for his crew.	None. Both have main characters who are likeable.
Magical Characters	Fairy Godmother	None	Folktales do not rely on magic to solve problems.
Problem	Cinderella is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.	Paul needs to straighten out the roads so that logging is easier for him and his crew.	None. Both kinds of tales have problems that human beings can understand.
Animals	Mice become horses; birds and other animals can understand Cinderella and help her.	Babe, the blue ox and Bessie the yellow cow are regular animals that grow very large when they are with Paul.	Folktale animals are real animals that may have larger than life abilities. Fairy tale animals are often magical or mythical beasts like dragons and unicorns.
Magic Numbers	Magic ends on the stroke of midnight	None	Folktales do not rely on magic.
Magic	Shoes turn into glass slippers, a pumpkin turns into a carriage	None	Folktales do not rely on magic.
Solution to Problem	The handsome prince marries Cinderella and she is no longer mistreated. The prince sees to it that the stepmother and the stepsisters are punished.	Paul uses his super strength, and Babe's, to yank roads straight. Bessie makes milk and butter for everyone. Paul knows what is best and how to do what needs to be done.	Both folktales and fairy tales solve problems that are sometimes difficult for regular human beings to solve.
Author	Charles Perrault, wrote the version that included glass slippers in France in 1697.	Retold by S. E. Schlosser	Fairy tales are more likely to have known authors.
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