

Genre Folktales / Science Fiction



AUDIO

Audio with
Highlighting



ANNOTATE

INTERSTELLAR CINDERELLA

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Illustrated by Meg Hunt



Visualize Details

Highlight words that help you picture in your mind the place where Cinderella lives.

- 1 Once upon a planetoid, amid her tools and sprockets, a girl named Cinderella dreamed of fixing fancy rockets.
- 2 She fixed the robot dishwashers and zoombrooms in her care, but late each night she snuck away to study ship repair.





- 3 One day her wicked stepsisters came dashing in, excited.
“The Prince’s Royal Space Parade!
Our family’s invited!”
- 4 “I wish that you could come, my dear.
Alas, no room! Although . . .
why don’t you fix that broken ship
and fly it to the show?”



CLOSE READ



stranded not able to leave because there is no way to get anywhere else

- 5 “My toolbox!” Cinderella cried,
“we’re stranded here, I guess.”
But Murgatroyd the mouse sent out
a cosmic SOS.



- 6 “I’m here—your fairy godrobot!
I’ll make you brand-new tools.
You’ll need a space suit, too, of
course: Atomic blue! With jewels!
- 7 This power gem will speed your ship
across the starry sky.
It only lasts till midnight—
after that, your ship won’t fly.”
- 8 “Oh, thank you!” Cinderella said.
She quickly fixed the rocket,
then tucked the sonic socket wrench
inside her space-suit pocket.

Visualize Details

Highlight the words that help you picture how Cinderella’s ship will move.



- 9 She zoomed past stars and nebulae,
and parked beside a moon.
The space parade was glorious!
Each starship made her swoon.
- 10 At last the royal ship approached.
Her heart was filled with yearning.
The ship of Cinderella's dreams!
But heavens! What was burning?





- 11 The prince’s spaceship jerked and hissed and spewed a cloud of grit. The prince hopped out. “Oh blast! What now? My chief mechanic quit!”
- 12 But Interstellar Cinderella knew just what to do. She zipzapped with her socket wrench— the ship was good as new!
- 13 The prince invited her aboard. Last stop? Galactic Hall! He said, “I hope you’ll join me for the Gravity-Free Ball.”

CLOSE READ 

Compare and Contrast Stories

Underline two details that are the same as in the Cinderella story that most people know.

mechanic someone whose job is fixing machines



Vocabulary in Context

Underline words near **cosmos** that can help you figure out its meaning.

- 14 They talked for hours of rocket ships. The time went whizzing by. Then Cinderella saw the clock and said, “I have to fly!”
- 15 “But wait!” the prince called after her. “Please tell me how to find—” The girl was gone—but she had left her socket wrench behind.
- 16 The prince sent a transmission to the farthest edge of space. “I’ll search the cosmos for her. How I wish I’d seen her face!”





- 17 “The prince’s ship!” Grisilla screeched.
Her sister squealed in fear.
“The prince won’t marry one of us
if Cinderella’s here!”
- 18 Their mother said, “Don’t worry.
He won’t find her in this house!
I’ve trapped her in the attic
with that useless robot mouse.”



CLOSE READ



Vocabulary in Context

The word **craft** is short for **spacecraft**. Underline a word near it that has nearly the same meaning. What is another meaning of **craft**?

- 19 The prince's cargo door revealed a broken craft within.
"The girl I seek can fix a ship. So—who'd like to begin?"
- 20 He gave the sonic socket wrench to one, then to the other. Alas, they couldn't fix the ship (and neither could their mother).

21 Cinderella struggled,
but the space rope held her tight,
till Murgatroyd's robotic teeth
cut through it with one bite.





Compare and Contrast Stories

Underline a detail that is the same as in the more well-known Cinderella story. Then underline a detail after it that is different.

- 22 “The ship! It’s leaving!
Wait—what’s this?”
She made a fast repair,
then strapped the rusty jet pack on
and blasted through the air.
- 23 She landed right beside the prince.
“That wrench is mine!” she cried.
She quickly fixed the ailing ship.
The prince said, “Be my bride!”
- 24 She thought this over carefully.
Her family watched in panic.
“I’m far too young for marriage,
but I’ll be your chief mechanic!”



25 Amid her fleet of sparkling ships,
and friends both old and new,
a joyful Cinderella cried,
“My stars! Dreams do come true!”

