Cendrillon: An Island Cinderella

By Tracey Baptiste
Illustrated by Sophie Diao
A gentle breeze blew over the little island. It curved around palm trees and swept over rice fields. Then it landed softly against a girl watering her orange tree. The orange blossoms made the air smell sweet. The girl was named Cendrillon. Her mama had planted the tree before she became sick. Now her mama was gone.

**Blossoms** flowers of a plant that produces fruit

**Visualize Details**

Highlight words that help you picture the place where Cendrillon lives.

1. blossoms

**TEKS 2.6.D** Create mental images to deepen understanding.
Cendrillon was lonely without her mother.

“I must find a new mother for my girl,” thought her father. Later that day, he sailed to another island.

A few weeks later, Papa returned with a beautiful lady and her two daughters.

“This is your new family,” he told Cendrillon.
At first, Cendrillon’s new family was kind to her. Then Cendrillon’s life changed. There was a shipwreck, and Papa did not return. Cendrillon’s stepmother turned cold and cruel. She sent Cendrillon to the kitchens. She made her scrub pots and sweep the floor. Cendrillon scrubbed and swept until her fingers were raw.
One day, a fancy letter arrived. Cendrillon picked it up, but her stepmother snatched it from her and read it.

“The mayor’s son will choose a wife! All young ladies have been invited to a ball!”

For days, Cendrillon’s stepmother and stepsisters shopped for expensive clothes to wear to the ball. Cendrillon had to scrub, wash, sew, and sweep.
Visualize Details
Highlight the words that help you picture in your mind how Cendrillon’s stepsisters treat her.

10 On the night of the ball, Cendrillon wanted to go, but the stepsisters tore her simple dress and left without her. Cendrillon sat crying under the orange tree.

11 Then the gentle breeze blew orange blossoms into her hair and covered her in leaves, making a beautiful new dress!

12 “Go to the ball!” the breeze whispered.
When Cendrillon arrived at the ball, the mayor’s son looked only at her. All night, they danced to the music of guitars and drums. At midnight, though, her leaves and flowers began to dry up and fall. Cendrillon ran home.
Cendrillon’s stepmother saw the leafy trail.

“You were at the ball!” she screamed.

A knock at the front door stopped her. It was the mayor’s son! A stepsister pushed Cendrillon out the back door and locked her outside.

“I am looking for the girl in the leaf dress,” said the mayor’s son. Then he saw the trail of leaves. He followed it through the door.
There was Cendrillon. The mayor’s son recognized her at once.

He took Cendrillon’s hand. “Will you marry me?” he asked.

Before long, there was a great wedding. Cendrillon moved into a grand house with her new husband. She forgave her stepmother and stepsisters because she was a kind and gentle person.

And they all lived happily ever after, soothed by a sweet, gentle breeze that always smelled of orange blossoms.

**CLOSE READ**

**Compare and Contrast Stories**

Underline a key detail that is nearly the same in *Interstellar Cinderella* and this story. Then underline a key detail that is different.

**forgave** stopped being angry toward someone for something the person did