



Author	Whipple, L. (2002). <i>If the shoe fits: voices from Cinderella</i> . New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books: An imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.
Number of pages	67
Illustrator's name	Beingessner, L.
Genre	Fairy tale
Age range	Grades 4 – 8
Brief summary	The combination of Laura Whipple's words and Laura Beingessner's artwork result in a brilliant adaptation of the traditional Cinderella tale. <i>If the Shoe Fits: Voices from Cinderella</i> presents the well-known tale from the viewpoint of each character, in verse, including the ghost of Cinderella's father, the rat enchanted into the coachman, even the glass slippers! I think the most effective mechanism that this rendition offers is the inclusion of the details of what "happily ever after" really means. The last poem, "Cinderella's Coda," offers a glimpse into what becomes of her life from her point of view; she is an older widow and she addresses both the sorrows and the joys that make up her life. Whipple also provides an empowering perspective as she has Cinderella explain that "The music of true Magic/sang only that once for me./After, I had to compose the music of my life" (66); this adaptation removes the focus from enchantment and presents Cinderella's role in making her own happiness.
Brief evaluation	15/15 This book shines across all categories of assessment based on my rubric. I think it is a wonderful variation of the tale most children learn at a very young age. It is magically illustrated and the writing is brilliantly structured both within each characters' poem and from one perspective to another. This book offers a new perspective on a classic story yet unlike the original tale, Whipple's version develops all of the characters and provides the reader with a sense of their motivation and their reactions to the same scenario.
Awards	2002 Beehive Award

Criteria for Evaluation	0 Does not meet curriculum standards	1 Acceptable but not a first choice	2 Satisfactory	3 Right on target!
Plot	The plot is not interesting.	The plot holds the reader's attention and engages the reader.	The plot is intriguing and enjoyable.	The plot is engaging and provides a story line that invites the reader to turn to the next page!
Issue/Theme	The issue/theme is not pertinent to and/or inappropriate for the intended age group.	The issue/theme is engaging but is not handled in an impressive manner and/or does not thoroughly address the issue/theme.	The book carefully and effectively addresses a critical issue/theme for the intended age group.	The book appropriately covers relevant matters and enables the reader to critically think about his/her position on the issue/theme.
Characters	The characters are undeveloped.	The reader gets a sense of the characters and is somewhat able to get inside their thoughts and motivation but character development could be stronger.	The characters are well-developed. The reader is able to understand their motivation and behavior.	The character development is strong. The reader is able to empathize with their situations, understand their actions and reactions, and critically think about how s/he would behave in the characters' situation.
Dialogue	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Writing Style	The writing style is poor, the story line unclear. It is difficult to follow the progression of events.	The writing style and fluency is acceptable. The reader may be confused on occasion as to sequence of events.	The writing style is enjoyable and the story flows in a natural, coherent progression.	The book is well-written, clearly relays critical information, and exemplifies exceptional mechanics of writing.
Reaction & Response	The book does not provide insight or provoke independent thought, opinions, or ideas.	The book causes the reader to think about the story, characters, and theme but may send conflicting messages that are too confusing for the intended age group.	The book effectively evokes a personal reaction to the text.	The book elicits some sort of a strong emotional reaction while provoking further contemplation of the theme and guiding the reader to independent thought.