

# Fairy Tale Types

Unit 1, World Myths and Folktales:  
Fairy Tale Study

# Aarne-Thompson Index

- Antti Aarne (original publisher: 1910)
- Revised in 1928 and 1961 by Stith Thompson
- Aids in the classification of folktales by motif.
- The index is organized into broad categories (such as Animal Tales, Fairy Tales, Religious Tales, etc.).
  - Within each category, the tale types are further classified by motif until individual tales are listed.

# Fairy Tale Types

- Supernatural Opponents
- Supernatural or Enchanted Relatives
  - Wife
  - Husband
  - Brother or Sister
- Supernatural Tasks
- **Supernatural Helpers**
  - **Persecuted Heroine (510A): Cinderella Stories**
- Magic Items
- Supernatural Power or Knowledge
- Other stories of the supernatural

# Cinderella

The Persecuted Heroine

# Popularity

- One of the most recognizable stories in the world
- Authorities suggest there are anywhere from 345 to 1,500 “Cinderella” tales in existence.
- Most well-known version is Charles Perrault’s *Cinderella* (France 1697).
- Contemporary movies with Cinderella themes:
  - Pretty Woman
  - Maid in Manhattan
  - What a Girl Wants
  - Ella Enchanted (also a book)
  - Miss Congeniality
  - Never Been Kissed
  - The Princess Diaries (also a book)

# The story...

- “Cinderella” stories always center around a **kind, but persecuted, heroine** who suffers at the hands of her family after the death of her mother (except when her mother is one of the persecutors).
- Her father is either absent or neglectful, depending on the version.
- The heroine has a **magical guardian** who helps her triumph over her persecutors and achieve a wealthy marriage.
- ***Most*** of the tales include an epiphany sparked by an article of clothing (usually a shoe) that causes the heroine to be recognized for her true worth.