**Cinderella**

In this version of the story, Aschenputtel was told by her dying mother to remain good and kind, and that God would protect her once she was gone. A year after her death, her father remarried another woman with two beautiful daughters who had cruel and wicked hearts. Aschenputtel’s step sisters stole her fine clothing and jewelry and forced her into rags. After all of that, they then forced her to be in the kitchen and to do the worst chores, giving her the nickname “Aschenputtel” or “ash fool”. Aschenputtel remained strong because of her mother’s dying wish that she would remain good and kind. She would cry and pray over her mother’s grave everyday that her life would someday improve.

On his way to a fair, Aschenputtel’s father asked his daughters what gifts they would like him to bring for them. The stepsisters asked for nice dresses and diamonds, while Aschenputtel remained humble and merely wanted the first twig that would hit his hat off his head. Aschenputtel’s father obliges. He brings his step-daughters the gifts they wanted, and gives his own daughter a twig from the forest. Aschenputtel planted the twig over her mother’s grave and watered it with the tears she cried over her mother’s grave for years until it grew into a magnificent hazel tree.

Aschenputtel would continue pray three times a day under the tree and a white bird would always come to comfort her. The King of the land soon held a festival that would last for three days and three nights, and invited all of the beautiful maidens in the kingdom to attend so that the prince could select one as his bride. The horrible step sisters were invited, but when Aschenputtel begged to go, the step-mother denied her and said she could after cleaning, making a huge mess of lentils for her to clean before leaving.

Aschenputtel ran off to the graveyard crying where the white bird came to her and dropped down a white gown and silk shoes. She went off to the ball with the condition that she had to return before midnight. She agreed and danced with the prince on the first night, escaping him before midnight. On the second night, she returned to him, this time in a silver gown and glass shoes, and once again ran away before the clock struck twelve.

On the third night, she returned with a dress spun of gold and wore golden slippers. However, this time the prince was determined to find out who she was and managed to get hold of one of her slippers, stating that he would marry whomever it belonged to

On the following day, the prince on a quest to find his true love, went to Aschenputtel’s house to test the slippers.

Aschenputtel’s step-mother convinced her elder daughter to cut some of her toes off to fit into the slipper. The prince was tricked but became aware of this deception when the white doves pointed out the blood dripping from her foot.

He returned to Aschenputtel’s house where the other step-sister had cut a piece of her heel off to fit into the slippers. The prince took her with him until the two doves alerted him that he was being deceived...again.

The prince returned once more and asked if there was another girl in the house. Aschenputtel’s father mentioned they had a maid in the kitchen, but never referred to her as his daughter. It’s never explained why he does this or allows his daughter to be mistreated, but it should be noted that he would always refer to Aschenputtel as his first wife’s child and never his own.

The prince fits the slipper perfectly onto Aschenputtel’s foot and recognizes her as the girl he danced with for three nights.

In the end, at her wedding, the doves flew down and pecked out one eye from each of the step sisters. After the wedding was over, the birds struck at each sister's remaining eye, leaving them both blind as a punishment for the rest of their lives.