The Korean Cinderella (Trophy Picture Books)
There are as many as a half dozen versions of Cinderella in Korea. The Korean Cinderella by Shirley Climo is a combination of three Korean variations. To honor her birth, a pear tree is planted and the newborn baby is named Pear. She is beautiful and loved by her elderly mother and father. When Pear’s mother dies, her father remarries a woman with a daughter the same age as Pear. Beautiful Pear’s stepmother is jealous of her stepdaughter’s beauty and requires her to perform many impossible chores, while her own daughter, Peony watches. With the help of magical creatures (frog, sparrow, and black oxen) Pear successfully completes each chore and is able to...
attend the festival. On the way to the festival she loses her shoe. The magistrate sees the beautiful
Pear and calls out to her. Believing he is yelling at her, she runs away without her shoe. At the
festival the magistrate looks for the girl without the shoe. And we can guess the end of the story. The
Korean Cinderella is recognizable and is a captivating variation of the American version. The
paintings are colorful and lush. Children will love the story and thoroughly enjoy the illustrations.
This is for children between the ages of five and nine.

This is one of the longest text versions of the Cinderella story I have ever come across. It is a
wonderful telling of the tale, and works nicely to illustrate how this tale is part of many cultures the
world over. I can’t speak to the accuracy of the details of Korean culture, but the artwork is
fascinating. Due to length of the story, however, I tend to wonder how well it would hold younger
children’s attention. It works well, though, for illustrating cultural difference to college students.

I really enjoyed this version of Cinderella, I also liked how Climo included a little behind the scenes
of the folktale on the back pages. I’m not the biggest fan of the illustrations however, I liked the
patterns that were worked onto the pages, but the faces of the characters were sort of weird and
disturbing at times, I wasn’t drawn into the Pear Blossom’s beauty they way I would have liked to
have been (as was described in Climo’s words)

My students from Korea appreciate this book that has cultural ties, and my students from other
countries like to learn about their classmates’ culture. With Cinderella as the common thread, this is
easier.

The illustrator tried to capture traditional korean culture by imitating korean temple art, the book has
dynamic traditional art patterns and has a quality of movement throughout the book. The cover
image and final image of the korean cinderella are beautiful, and made me want to buy the book,
however she is drawn crudely and looks ugly throughout the rest of the book. If I had seen this book
in person, I might not have bought it, that’s how ugly the faces are, but it’s not worth returning the
book.

Great story, beautifully illustrated, but a little harsh for young readers. I read it aloud to 1-3 graders
and one of the girls was very concerned about the way the Cinderella character was treated.
Probably fine for most kids, but know your audience
We just have one mean stepsister in this version of Cinderella. I was intrigued by this book and added it to the library collection of Cinderella versions when I was working. Pear is the Cinderella in the story and she does lose her shoe so the story does keep to the original Cinderella version in many ways. There are other creatures to play the role of fairy godmother which makes it interesting. The illustrations are absolutely gorgeous and I like the Korean words being included in this story. Children have liked this book when we read it. I like it, too. I think it is a good addition to the Cinderella collection and I do recommend this book for elementary school children.

When I was in elementary school I would always go to the school library to borrow books. This is how I discovered this gem in third grade. I loved fairy tales at the times and always did everything I could to get more. When I found this book I immediately decided that I had to read it. Boy was that a good decision or what. 1) The pictures were beautifully drawn, 2) I loved the story, and 3) It was all in all amazing. It is different but the same in some ways than the American version. There is no fairy godmother. That was the only disappointment I felt at the time because I loved the idea that anyone could have a fairy godmother but even so, it was a marvelous story and you'll definitely enjoy it.

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