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If the Shoe Fits: Voices from Cinderella

Donna Cardon

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Whipple, Laura. *If the shoe fits: voices from Cinderella*. Illustrated by Laura Beingsner. Simon and Schuster, 2002. ISBN 0689840705, \$17.95. 67pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading level: Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fairytales; Poetry

Subject: Cinderella (Legendary character)—Juvenile poetry; Characters in literature—Poetry; Books—Reviews;

The Cinderella story has been retold thousands of times. This version adds some fresh perspective on the traditional tale. In this, her first book, Whipple has written 33 free verse poems each from the perspective of an individual character in the story. She gives voice to characters that are usually unheard, such as the garden cat, the ball guests, the transformed rat and even the glass slippers. The main characters also have their say.

The interest of this retelling does not lie in the quality of the poetry but in the variety and originality of viewpoint. Kids especially enjoy the perspective of the less obvious characters such as the cat, "In garden/ cat smells ratness/ finds swift bird/ slinks tall grass." Beingsner's gouche illustrations compliment the text but add nothing new. This book is an interesting addition to a Cinderella collection or a good springboard for a discussion of point of view.