

Interstellar Cinderella

by Deborah Underwood

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Why we love it: You know it's going to be good when "once upon a time" morphs into "once upon a planetoid"! In this rhyming reimagining of "Cinderella," the heroine is an engineer who loses her sonic socket wrench at the ball instead of her glass slipper. But it's the ending that really gets us. No spoilers here, but it perfectly encapsulates just how far girls and women have come!

Questions to ponder with your kids: Start with the obvious - ask your kids to compare "Interstellar Cinderella" with the more common version of the fairy tale. What's similar? What's different? Is one version "better" than the other? Why? This can also be the start of a women's history lesson - sit down with your kids and google when the fairy tale was written, when the animated version of Cinderella was produced by Walt Disney, and when "Interstellar Cinderella" was published and talk about the different social and historical circumstances during those time periods. The book is also full of illustrations of really awesome tools (throughout the story and then on the end pages). Ask your kids which tools they like the best, and what they would do with them! Last, but not least, discuss how Interstellar Cinderella is different from the rest of her family, and how she pursues her passion in spite of (or perhaps because of) this difference.