

Cinderellaphant

An Educator's Guide

A Picture Book by Dianne de Las Casas

Illustrated by Stefan Jolet

Pelican Publishing Company 2014

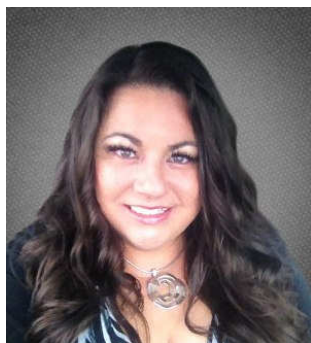
About the book

This remixed “furry tail” features a soon-to-be pachyderm princess, a stepmother and two step-hippos, a fairy godmouse, a peanut carriage, and a royal roan looking for his “sole mate.” This dazzling version of the classic *Cinderella* will keep readers entertained with clever word play, idioms, and humor-filled illustrations. Come one, come all to the Royal Reading Ball!

“Dianne de Las Casas took the timeless fairy tale Cinderella and gave it a twist. The story line will be familiar although our author has put in some of her own touches which add humor to the story. You and your child will laugh through the story and definitely enjoy this version.” - Dad of Two Divas Blog

Visit Dianne’s website! <http://www.diannedelascasas.com> for downloadable “Book Activities.”

About the Author



Dianne de Las Casas

Dianne de Las Casas is an award-winning author, storyteller, recording artist, and founder of Picture Book Month, an international literacy initiative celebrating the print picture book during the month of November. Her work has earned rave reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *Kirkus*. She performs at schools, libraries, festivals, and special events and is a sought-after speaker and at state, national, and international library and education conferences. The author of *Cinderellaphant*, *The House That Santa Built*, *The Little “Read” Hen*, *Beware, Beware of the Big Bad Bear*, *Dinosaur Mardi Gras*, *The House That Witchy Built*, *There’s a Dragon in the Library*, *The Gigantic Sweet Potato*, *Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach*, *Mama’s Bayou*, *The Cajun Cornbread Boy*, and many other books, Dianne lives with her family, including her culinary prodigy daughter, Kid Chef Eliana, in the New Orleans area. Like *Cinderellaphant*, Dianne loves fabulous footwear and beautiful bling!

About the Illustrator



Stefan Jolet grew up in the culturally rich Cajun community of Lafayette, Louisiana. He has had a passion for art since he was a young boy and has been a graphic designer and illustrator for 18 years. Jolet illustrated an iOS app titled “Rockin’ Three Billy Goats” (Moglue, 2012) and *Handmade Tales 2: More Stories to Make and Take* (Libraries Unlimited, 2013), both titles by Dianne de Las Casas. His favorite song by Baboon 5 is “Moves Like Jaguar.”

Interview with the Author, Dianne de Las Casas

How did you come up with the idea for *Cinderellaphant*?

Cinderella is my favorite fairy tale of all time. I've always loved the story and collect different versions of it. I love portmanteaus – combining two words to create a new word. One day, I came up with “Cinderellaphant” and wanted to create a Cinderella story with wild animals. For many years, I had the idea in my head for many years and then I finally wrote it down about ten years ago. I love the irony of her colossal slipper and that's she not the “usual” princess.

What advice do you have for young authors?

Step 1: Read! Explore the world around you through the power of words. Read as much as you can – both fiction and non-fiction. The more you know about the world, the more you have to write about. **Step 2: Listen!** Listen to the world around you? What do you hear? You could be inspired with a story. **Step 3: Write!** Keep a journal and jot down all you thoughts and ideas. **Step 4: Tell out loud!** I read every story I write out loud. It's important to hear the rhythm of the language. Every story has a “heartbeat” that brings it to life. Reading a story out loud allows you to hear that. **Step 5: Rewrite!** Few stories are born “perfect.” The best stories are the ones that have been finely tuned with good editing. Ask someone you trust to read your story and offer suggestions. A good editor is so important!

Interview with the Illustrator, Stefan Jolet

What inspires you as an artist?

I am inspired by other creative people. I try to surround myself with creative people who inspire me. I visit their blogs, read their books, and study their art form. I also love animation, comics, and monsters. Superheroes are always awesome and monsters are so much fun to draw because they require creativity.

What advice do you have for young artists?

My advice for young artist is to have respect for other people and be humble. Practice your art every chance you get. Always try to learn how to draw stuff you think you're not good at (for me it's horses - wait, isn't a zebra a kind of horse?!). Take the time to deconstruct art that you like and figure out why you like it.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Word Whizzling (Dianne’s made-up word for finding words in another word or phrase)

How many words can you whizzle from “Cinderellaphant?” The words have to be 3 or more letters. We found 35 words but there are more!

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Portmanteaus [pronounced port-man-TOES]

A portmanteau is a combination of two or more words and their definitions into one new word. The word *portmanteau* is formed by blending two French words “*Porter*” (carry) and “*Manteau*” (cloak). It is also the name of a piece of luggage or trunk often used in England. In my picture book, *Cinderellaphant*, “Cinderella” and “Elephant” were combined. Other examples of portmanteaus:

- Motor + Hotel = Motel
- Smoke + Fog = Fog
- Breakfast + Lunch = Brunch
- Camera + Recorder = Camcorder
- Web + Log = Blog

*Activity: Perfecting the Portmanteau*

Can you think of any portmanteaus on your own? What about making up your own portmanteau? Try combining two animals together and see what you come up with. Example: Llama + monkey = llunkey. What kinds of portmanteanimals can you come up with? Draw them!

Turbo Tongue Twisters

A *tongue twister* is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to say properly. Some tongue twisters are natural (cinnamon or spaghetti are often tongue twisters for young children) while others are deliberate and used for fun. Example: “We read what we write.” (Try saying it three times fast without any mistakes!) Can you make up your own turbo tongue twister?

Retelling Tales Writing Exercise

Cinderellaphant is a folktale retelling.

- How would you “retell” a folktale? Find a lesser known folktale and rewrite it. Tip: Look in the 398.2 section of the library for folk and fairy tales.
- Take a traditional tale (i.e., Little Red Riding Hood, 3 Little Pigs, Goldilocks & the 3 Bears) and twist the tale. Think of how to “redo” the title (i.e., Goldie Bears & the 3 Locks)

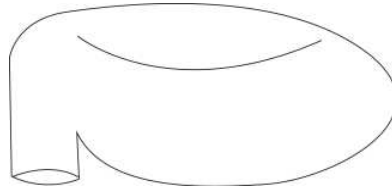
Reading: Check Out Cinderella Books!

Check out these awesome Cinderella books.

- *Cinderella* by Marcia Brown (1995 Caldecott winner)
- *Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China* by Ai-Ling Louie, Illustrated by Ed Young
- *The Egyptian Cinderella* by Shirley Climo, Illustrated by Ruth Heller
- *The Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe Martin, Illustrated by David Shannon
- *The Korean Cinderella* by Shirley Climo, Illustrated by Ruth Heller

Activity: Find the Fun Puns

Throughout *Cinderellaphant*, there are all kinds of puns that relate to elephants, animals, and feet. How many puns can you find? Can you create your own funny punny story?



SCIENCE

Fun & Funky Facts about Elephants, Hippos & Zebras

Elephants:

- Elephants can hear each other trumpeting from 5 miles away!
- The world's largest elephant recorded weighed in at over 24,000 lbs. and was 13 ft. high!
- Elephants need to cool off and protect themselves from the sun. No, they don't use sunscreen or fans. They use sand to shield themselves from sunburn and they use their gigantic ears to cool themselves.
- Elephants are pregnant for two years before giving birth.
- Elephants are not afraid of lions. They are actually afraid of bees!

Zebra:

- Zebras are black with white stripes. Who knew? Their stripes are as unique to them as our fingerprints are to us.
- Zebras catch their Zzzzz while standing up. No mattress involved.
- Zebras like company. They live in herds numbering up to 1,000 members!
- When zebras are in a herd, it is difficult for lions to distinguish between them. They look like one big giant Zebra rug.
- Want to talk to a zebra? Zebras communicate through facial expressions and sounds. Just don't roll your eyes at them.

Hippos:

- Hippopotamus means "river horse" and is usually shortened to "hippo."
- Behind the elephant and the white rhinoceros, the hippo is considered the 3rd largest land mammal.
- Think hippos are chubby and out of shape? Think again! Hippos can easily outrun humans.
- Hippos are OLD. Scientists believe their species to be around 55 million years old! Say what?!

Activity: Draw an elegant elephant, a zippy zebra, or a happy hippo. Give your character its own personality with a fun and funky pattern and colors. Does it have stripes, polka dots, or checkers? What is its name? Around your drawing, list some fun and funky facts about your animal.



SOCIAL STUDIES**Cinderella Tales Around the World**

- Did you know that nearly every culture has a Cinderella story? The first Cinderella story purportedly recorded was about a girl named Rhodopis, which means “Rosy Eyes,” a Greek Slave who married an Egyptian pharaoh. Instead of a glass slipper, she had a gilded sandal.
- The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi hosts the world’s largest collection of Cinderella stories. It’s called “The Cinderella Project.” The books are housed in the de Grummond’s Children’s Literature Research Collection.
- Charles Perrault (1628-1703), a French author wrote the popular version of the Cinderella that everyone has come to know and love. It was written in 1697 in *Histoires ou Contes du Temps Passé*. He added the ubiquitous pumpkin, the fairy godmother, and the glass slippers.
- In 1950, Disney released an animated movie version of Charles Perrault’s *Cendrillon*. Since then, “Cinderella” has become an iconic Disney character with Cinderella’s castle the centerpiece of every Magic Kingdom around the world.
- The Aarne–Thompson system (a system of classifying folktales) classifies Cinderella as type 510A, “the persecuted heroine.” Variants of this theme are found throughout the world. In Germany, Cinderella is known as “Aschenputtel;” in Spain, she is known as “La Cenicienta;” in Vietnam, she is known as “Lo Lem.”

Activity: Search the Kingdom for Cinderella

Where can you find Cinderella? How many versions of Cinderella can you find in television, movies, books, and on stage? One of my favorite Cinderella movies is “Ella Enchanted” starring Anne Hathaway, which is based on the Newbery award-winning book by Gail Carson Levine.

MATH**The Math of a Picture Book**

Did you know that a standard picture book has 32 pages? They are put together in what are called “signatures.” Each signature has 8 pages. How many signatures makes up a picture book?
Answer: 4

Although you have 32 pages in a picture book, not all 32 pages are filled with story. Several pages are dedicated to “front matter” such as title pages and copyright pages. Check out these templates for picture books. <http://taralazar.wordpress.com/2009/02/22/picture-book-construction-know-your-layout/> Write a story and divide it up, creating a “dummy” for your picture book. How many pages did you use to write the actual story? Did you place illustrations on single pages or did you use a “double page spread,” two pages to illustrate one picture? There is a lot of math involved in creating a picture book!

Drama/Theater

Act out the story of *Cinderellaphant* using Dianne de Las Casas' story/puppet theater script on her website. Create a puppet play using Dianne de Las Casas' story/puppet theater script on her website. <http://www.diannedelascasas.com> Click on "Book Activities" and "Cinderellaphant."

Picture Book Month

Dianne de Las Casas is the founder of Picture Book Month, an international literacy initiative that celebrates the print picture book during the month of November. Your school can participate. Register online and download the free materials. Set a goal and commit to reading picture books during the month of November. You can also visit the website to read essays about the importance of picture books by prominent author, illustrators, and movers and shakers in the picture book world. Every day in November, a new essay is featured by luminaries like Peter Brown, Doreen Cronin, Tomie dePaola, E.B. Lewis, Chris Raschka, Jerry Pinkney, Jon Scieszka, Karma Wilson, and Paul O. Zelinsky. <http://www.picturebookmonth.com>

November is Picture Book Month. Read * Share * Celebrate!

