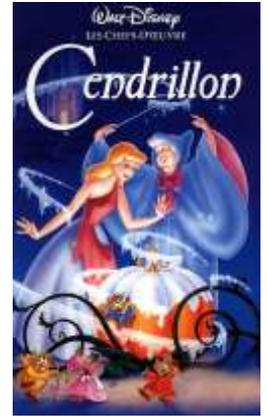


# Ever After: A Cinderella Story

"**Cinderella or The Little Girl of the Ashes**" (French: *Cendrillon*) is a folk tale embodying a myth-element of unjust oppression/triumphant reward. Thousands of variants are known throughout the world. The title character is a young woman living in unfortunate circumstances that are suddenly changed to remarkable fortune. The word "Cinderella" has, by analogy, come to mean one whose attributes are unrecognized, or one who unexpectedly achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect. The still-popular story of "Cinderella" continues to influence popular culture internationally, lending plot elements to a wide variety of media.



*Ever After: A Cinderella Story* is a 1998 film inspired by the fairy tale *Cinderella*. The usual comic/supernatural elements are removed, and the story is instead treated as historical fiction, set in Renaissance-era France. It is often seen as a modern, feminism interpretation of the Cinderella myth.

**Historical Facts in the Movie:** The character Danielle de Barbarac (Drew Barrymore) may in fact be partly based on Diane de Poitiers (1499-1566) or Catherine de Medici. Diane de Poitiers was King Henry II's favorite mistress, while Henry's father, Francis I, was a "great patron of the arts" who received Leonardo Da Vinci in the sixteenth century. Although de Poitiers herself was of noble birth, the names of the king and prince, as well as the time and place setting suggest that such a comparison was intended. Diane de Poitiers, however, was twenty years older than King Henry II, so such a comparison would only go so far. Catherine was Italian and her father, Lorenzo II de Medici also died when she was young. Other than that surface similarity, Catherine de Medici seems an unlikely source for the character of Danielle.



*The painting of Danielle seen in the film is based on Leonardo's Female Head (La Scapigliata).*

The characters and relationship of Danielle and Henry appear to more closely resemble that of Henry II and Catherine de Medici's son, Henry III of France and his wife Louise of Lorraine. Louise had an unhappy childhood and was unloved by her father and stepmother. Upon receiving news that she would marry Henry, her family responded by bowing and curtsying to her with embarrassment. The match was a general surprise, as Louise was not considered to have high enough status to be queen.

**Your Task:** Write a one-page reflection of how feminism is a key point to this film and any of the Four "ISMs" you noticed used to portray this era. Compare it to Disney's Cinderella Fairy Tale that you know and include what you learned about the Renaissance Era of France. (example: class system, society, the worldview of the people of that time, or recent discoveries and/or inventions of the early 1500s.)

**Due before 11/30 when you come back from break. Email Word documents ONLY to your teacher!**

## Items for reflection:

1. Did you all notice that *La Joconde* was on "canvas" in the film? In fact, she was painted on wood; a detail the film missed.
2. FACT: Cocoa, sugar, and coffee were expensive and in high demand because they would only grow in warm climates such as in the New World.
3. FACT: In the early 1500s, thieves, prostitutes, and traitors were often sent to The New World as a punishment...from France, they were shipped to New Orleans!

**DO NOT USE THE INTERNET...it will be very evident, resulting in a 0%**