

Godmother Knows Best? Authenticity and Authority in Reading and Viewing Cendrillon

This session will describe and discuss *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella*, a children's book authored by Robert D. San Souci and illustrated by Brian Pinkney. The book is based on the Cinderella story but situated in the Caribbean. The presenter will identify and describe the use of French Creole words and phrases, and discuss how these elements influence the reader. The presenter will also share how the use of the godmother as the narrator could lend authenticity to the storytelling, and authority to the storyteller. Further, the presentation will describe and discuss how the illustrations located at the center of the page as well as page border capture the sentiments of the time (towards the end of the 20th century) amidst shifting values especially cultural diversity. The presenter will address how the book provides a unique twist to a familiar story and a vehicle for readers in expanding their understanding of the changing times and finding their voices expressed in the picture book's texts and visuals. The target audience for this session is those involved in literacy education, teacher education, library studies, and higher education. Educators and other interested individuals will benefit from the discussion of using children's literature in the classroom, and researchers will find inspirations in discussions kindled and supported by sharing and critiques of literacy practices. Finally, the session will propose ideas on how children's literature like *Cendrillon* can be used as a tool in promoting engagement and critical thinking as well as developing diverse perspectives.