

**3.-5. Lernjahr**

*Paul Davenport*

# Englische Theaterstücke



**The Importance of Small Feet • The Cool Cat  
with the Fancy Boots • Snowy White**

**Drei englische Theaterstücke mit  
witzigen Szenen zu den bekannten  
Märchen „Aschenputtel“, „Schnee-  
wittchen“ und „Der gestiefelte Kater“**



*Lernen mit Erfolg*

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# Englische Theaterstücke

## Lustige Theaterstücke zu bekannten und beliebten deutschen Märchen

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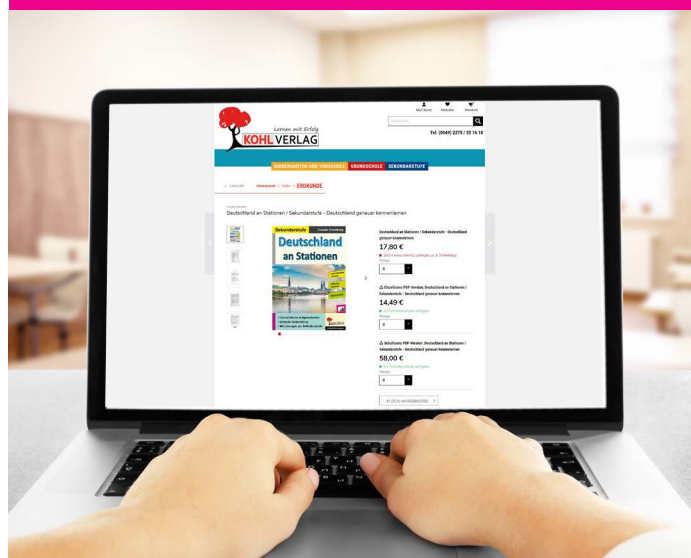
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# 1

# The Importance of Small Feet

(frei nach dem Märchen „Aschenputtel“)



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL FEET

*A Play based on the fairy tale 'Cinderella'*

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL FEET

*A Play based on the fairy tale 'Cinderella'*

## THE PLAY

The play, 'The Importance of Small Feet' is a freely adapted version of the traditional folk tale 'Cinderella'.

## THE PERFORMANCE

Including short pauses between the acts, the performance lasts about an hour.

## THE ROLES

There are 27 roles, which can be divided into the following categories:

### - Leading Roles

- Cinderella
- Her step-mother, Jezebel
- Her step-sisters:
  - Denise
  - Rachel
  - Susan
- Fairy 1
- Fairy 2
- Prince

### - Major Roles

- Cinderella's father, Frank
- King
- Queen
- Servant

### - Minor Roles

- Coachman
- Guests 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- Bodyguards 1, 2

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLAY AND THE SETTINGS

The play is divided into five acts but there are only three basic settings:

- CINDERELLA'S HOME (Acts 1-3)
- THE ROYAL PALACE (Act 4)
- THE VILLAGES OF DARTFORD AND WINLOCK (Act 5)
- SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PERFORMANCE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL FEET

*A Play based on the fairy tale 'Cinderella'*

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PERFORMANCE

Pupils who have minor roles can also perform in the market place scenes in Act 5.

For those in the class that don't like to act on stage, there are several important non-acting roles. The success of the play depends not only on good acting, but also on the right atmosphere, which is determined by good settings, lighting and a good soundtrack. Costumes and makeup are also important.

And, just as important as the leading roles, is the job of putting in place and changing the stage decorations for the three settings.

## Act 1

*Cinderella's future mother-in-law, Jezebel, is sitting quietly at home reading. Suddenly, Cinderella's father, Frank, comes in with a ring in his hand and a rose in his mouth.*

**Frank:** It's me, darling.

**Jezebel:** *(pretending to be very surprised)* Oh, Frank, hello. I wasn't expecting you this evening. What's the rose all about, and ... *(her voice rising)* what's that in your hand?

**Frank:** *(going down on one knee)* Oh, Jezebel, you know my feelings for you. At first I didn't dare to show them, an older man like myself with a daughter and my wife dead only a year. But I can't help myself. You have been so good to us. You've given me a reason to live again. Without you I couldn't go on.

**Jezebel:** But Frank, calm down, dear. Of course I've been good to you and your daughter. My girls and I have taken you and Cinderella into our hearts. And not just because you're a very rich man, as some mean people say. But tell me, why have you come to me so late?

**Frank:** *(holding out the ring with one hand and the rose with the other)* Oh, Jezebel, say yes!

**Jezebel:** Yes. Now tell me what the question was, please!

**Frank:** *(growing very nervous, in a trembling voice)* You know what the question is, don't you? Oh, Jezebel, you're not making this easy for me. Will ... uh ... you ... want ... I mean ... uh ... would you ... want to ...

**Jezebel:** ... want to marry you? Silly boy, you know my answer without asking me: of course I do!

**Frank:** Oh, Jezebel, you've made me so happy! *(He hands her the rose and the ring and tries to embrace her, but she jumps up, lays the rose on the floor, puts on the ring, rushes over to the mirror and looks at herself with the ring on her finger.)* Do you like it? It wasn't cheap, you know.

**Jezebel:** *(so fascinated looking at herself and the ring in the mirror that she doesn't hear him at first)* Sorry, did you say something?

**Frank:** *(disappointed, in a sad voice)* No, no, nothing, nothing at all.

*Curtain falls, wedding music sounds from offstage.*

## Scene 2

*Jezebel is lying in bed and has just woken up. She rings a little bell and waits impatiently.*

**Jezebel:** Where's my breakfast? My God, I hate it when I have to wait for my breakfast. How often have I said that I want my breakfast brought to me immediately when I wake up. CINDERELLA! Now where is that stupid child? She'd better get here soon or she'll be sorry!  
CINDERELLA!

**Cinderella:** *(hurries into the room almost crying)* I'm coming. Please don't be angry with me. I couldn't help it, it wasn't my fault. The cook didn't have your breakfast ready until just now. I'm sorry, Mother.

**Jezebel:** What did I say about calling me mother? I'm not your mother and I don't want to hear you saying mother to me, do you understand? Now don't stand there blubbing, girl, give me my breakfast!

**Cinderella:** *(in her nervousness she trips, falls and dumps the tray with the breakfast onto her mother-in-law)* Ohhh, nooo ... I'm so sorry. *(starts to put the food back onto the tray)*

**Jezebel:** *(pushing her away)* Now look what you've done. You stupid, stupid girl. How can anyone be so clumsy? My brand new nightgown! Now look at it! You know what this means, don't you? It means you'll stay in all day today and scrub the floors. And when you've finished the floors, you'll scour the pots and pans!

**Cinderella:** But I scrubbed the floors yesterday. And I did the pots and pans just a few days ago.

**Jezebel:** I don't care what you did. You've got to learn to be more careful. I've got to teach you a lesson. Now away with you and get started on those floors!

Scene 3

*Later that day, Cinderella's sisters-in-law come in from playing outside and see Cinderella on her knees scrubbing the floor.*

**Denise:** Hi, Cindy! Having a good time? Too bad you have to do the floors. It's so nice outside.

**Rachel:** My God, look at her – the way she's dressed. Where did you get those clothes? Did you steal them from a scarecrow?

**Susan:** We've got to be going now, Cinderella. We're meeting our boyfriends in town. So sorry you can't come with us. Come on, girls!

**Cinderella:** *(She breaks down crying. After a few moments, when she's got control of herself again...)* I don't think I can stand this much longer. At first they were all so nice to me, but since daddy died everything has changed. They all seem to hate me now. But why? What have I done to them? I try to be as nice as I can but the friendlier I am, the meaner they are to me. If only I had a friend, someone to talk to. Maybe I should leave this awful place and run away. But where could I go? Who would take me in? *(says nothing a moment, then shaking her head sadly...)* All I have left is my hope – that someday things will get better – and I'd better hang on to that. It's all I've got.

## Act 2

Scene 1

*Cinderella is sweeping the floor. Jezebel rushes by her to the hall just outside her daughters' bedrooms holding a letter in her hand.*

**Jezebel:** Girls, girls, get up right away! I've got exciting news!

**Cinderella:** *(going over to her)* May I ask what it is, ma'am? Is it good news?

**Jezebel:** You may not, silly child. Go back to your work right now! This news is only for my girls, not for you.

*Cinderella goes sadly back to her work. Jezebel goes to each of the daughter's bedrooms and knocks on the doors.*

**Jezebel:** Denise, Rachel, Susan, get up you lazy, lazy girls. Your mother's got good news for you. *(She waits another minute or two becoming more and more impatient)* Alright, you win. Stay in bed if you like and sleep till noon. I don't care. Too bad, really, it was about the Prince. *(Suddenly the girls rush out)*

**Denise:** The Prince, did you say the Prince?

**Rachel:** That was just a little trick to get us out of bed, right mother?

**Susan:** If it was, I'm going to stay in bed the rest of the day.

**Jezebel:** *(holding up the letter proudly)* No trick, my dears. This is the real thing. Listen! *(Unfolds the letters and begins reading)*

To all my loyal subjects,  
Greetings from your King. As you all know, my son, William, Prince of Shropshire, will be eighteen years old this year. The Queen and I have decided to celebrate his birthday with a royal ball. It is our wish that all of the girls in the kingdom between seventeen and twenty years of age attend the ball. The guest of honor, the Prince, will be checking out the girls even more closely than usual. He has agreed to end his single days. During the ball he will choose one of the girls to be his bride and future queen.

This is a very important event. The Queen and I invite you all to come and make it a big success.

Your beloved King,  
Richard

- Denise:** Oh, the Prince, the Prince. I don't believe it. He's so good looking and –
- Rachel:** ... I'll win his heart, I know it, I can feel it.
- Susan:** Not looking like that, you won't.
- Rachel:** You don't stand a chance no matter how you look. As soon as you open that big mouth of yours –
- Denise:** Right. There's only one of us who has what it takes to win the Prince's heart and that's me! The Prince will choose me.
- Rachel:** No he won't. He'll choose me!
- Susan:** Forget it, you two. I'm the oldest. I have the most experience. I know how to charm a man. He'll choose me!
- Jezebel:** Girls, girls, stop it! It doesn't really matter which of you he chooses. The main thing is that one of you becomes the Princess. We're a family, and families stick together win or lose, right?
- Sisters:** *(without enthusiasm)* Yeah, right Mom.
- Jezebel:** Now, come on. We'll have to start getting ready right away. The first thing we've got to do is go shopping for the most beautiful ball gowns we can find. To catch the Prince's eye. Now get yourselves ready and we'll go to town.
- Cinderella:** Can I come, too, ma'am?
- Jezebel:** *(pushing her away)* You stay right where you are. This has nothing to do with you. You don't think you're going to the ball, do you? I want to see that floor scrubbed and shining when we return, do you hear?
- Cinderella:** Yes, ma'am.

## Scene 2

*Several hours later. Cinderella is still scrubbing the floor. Jezebel returns from town with her daughters, their shopping bags full. The daughters run to the mirror, hold up their new gowns and admire themselves.*

- Denise:** Wow! Look at me. Don't I look sexy in my new gown? The Prince won't be able to take his eyes off me!

- Rachel:** Until he sees me!
- Susan:** *(laughing)* Sorry, girls, but the mirror just spoke to me. You know what it said? It said Du bist die schönste im ganzen Land!
- Denise:** Huh?
- Susan:** That's German for I'm the prettiest in the whole country.
- Rachel:** But why in German?
- Susan:** It's a German mirror, dummy. *(pointing to the back of the mirror)* Look. Made in Germany.
- Cinderella:** Oh, what beautiful gowns. Can I try one one?
- Denise:** What? You, Cinderella? I wouldn't dream of letting you touch my gown, not with those dirty hands of yours.
- Rachel:** These dresses are for pretty women only. Sorry, Cinderella, but you just don't qualify.
- Susan:** I don't know what you're crying about, girl. You're not going to the ball, so you don't need a new dress, do you?
- Cinderella:** *(to Susan)* Can I just hold your gown a minute?
- Susan:** One minute! *(Susan gives her the gown but becomes angry when Cinderella holds it in front of her and looks in the mirror.. Suddenly, without warning, she tries to pull it away from Cinderella. There is a tearing sound.)*
- Jezebel:** Now look at what you've done, you idiot! You've torn Susan's new dress!
- Cinderella:** I didn't do it, Susan did!
- Jezebel:** I saw who did it. Now shut up and take that dress to the dressmaker's for repair. And hurry! We don't have much time left before the ball. *(Cinderella hurries away with the dress)* And now, my dears, it's time you started getting yourselves ready for the ball. Fetch your make-up.
- Denise:** But, mom, the ball is not until this evening.
- Jezebel:** I know, my dears, but you do want to win the Prince's heart, don't you?
- Rachel:** Of course we do.