Cinderella Goes Viral



by Alex Parker illustrated by Ellie O'Shea

Words to Know

Before we "log in" to our story, let's learn a few important digital words. These terms may feel magical, but they help explain how things can go viral online and how to keep your world private—just like Cinderella!

notifications: alerts that tell you when someone has commented, liked, or shared your post

post: when you share a picture, video, or message online for others to see

private: when only certain people (like close friends) can see what you post

public: when anyone can see what you post, even people you don't know

re-share: when someone shares your post, spreading it to more people

viral: when a post spreads quickly to many people, often far beyond your friends

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Now, let's begin our tale . . .

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Cinderella. She had never felt special.

Not once. Not ever.



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When the royal ball was announced, everyone in the kingdom was invited. That included Cinderella.



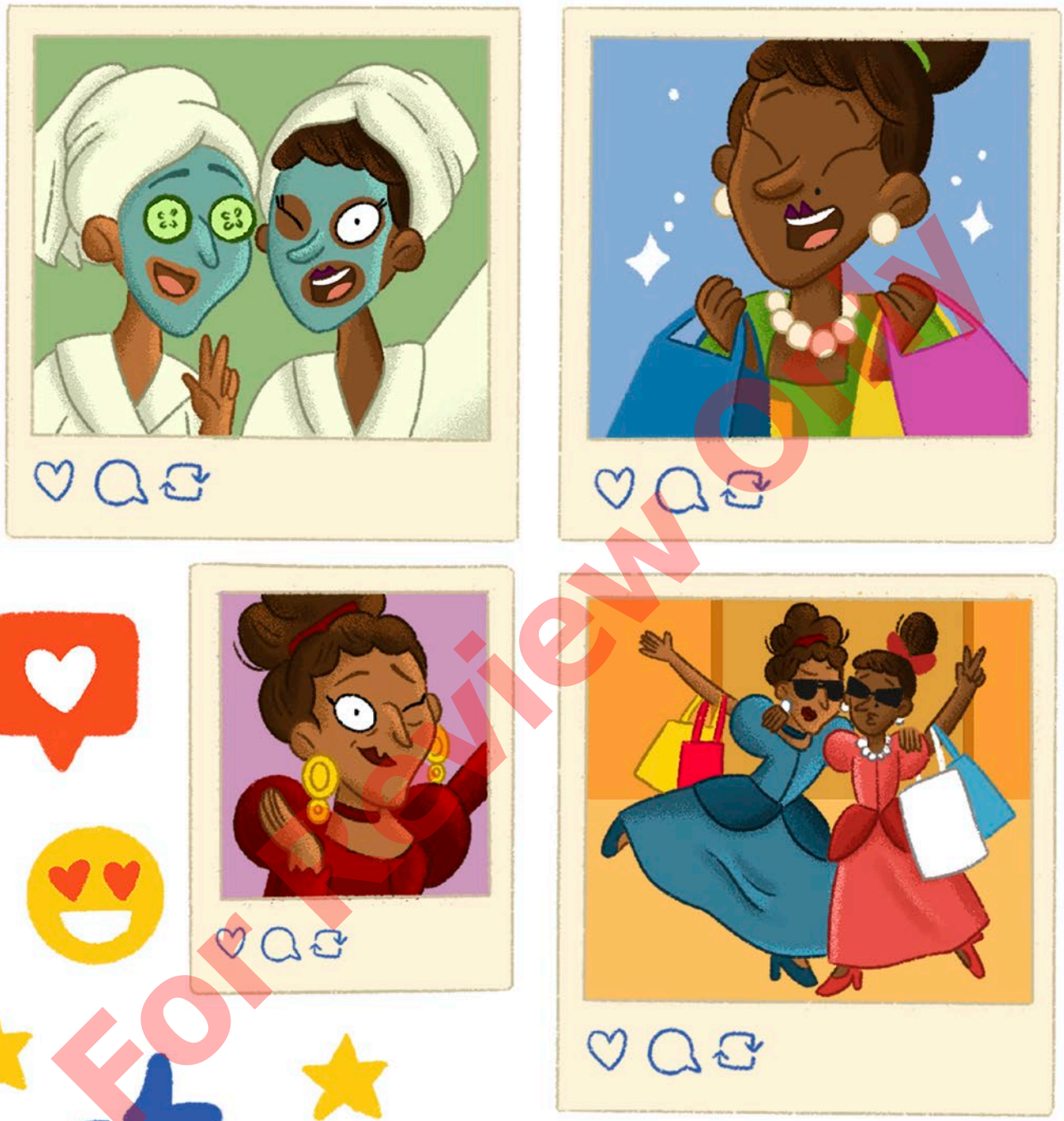
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Her stepsisters had gowns, jewelry, and a full schedule of beauty appointments.

They couldn't stop talking about what they would wear, who they would dance with, and how amazing they would look.



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They were already posting everything on Glimmer, the social media platform that EVERYONE used.

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Cinderella had chores, a tattered dress, and no way to get to the ball.

But she dreamed of going—not as the girl her stepsisters teased and ignored, but as someone who fit in. Just for one night. If only.

Suddenly . . .



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Cinderella's rags turned into ribbons and silk.
Her dirty sneakers turned into glass slippers.

“It’s perfect,” she whispered.



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Her fairy godmother smiled. “The magic fades at midnight. And remember, my dear—some magic is best kept off social media.”

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Fairy Godmother's Digital Wisdom

Stop and Think Before You Post

- Is this something I'd be okay with the whole world seeing?
- Would sharing this change how the moment feels?
- Am I ready for others to react, re-share, or talk about it?

Even "Friends Only" Can Travel

Even a "private" or "friends only" message can be shared or spread. Nothing is really private once it's online.

Keep Some Magic Just for You

It's okay to keep special things to yourself. You get to choose when, how, and if you share them.

Talk About It

1. Why did Cinderella want to keep her big moment a secret?
2. What happened after Cinderella posted the photo?
3. How did her stepsisters react when they saw the post?
4. What would you do if something you shared was spread more than you expected?
5. Can you think of a time when it's better to enjoy something in real life instead of sharing it online?

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