

'It's Your Choice' was created and performed by Malak Radi, Yasmine Joude, Noor Hijazi, Malak Abu Safi and Lama AbuOuda from Beach Prep Girls' School 'C', Gaza with support from their teacher Abeer Younis. A recording of the play, performed by the actors is available here ... <https://youtu.be/z4fv2idB4m0>



Activities

- a) Put the students into small groups of 4-10. Ask each group to prepare some still images of key moments from the story of Cinderella. When they are ready, each group presents one of their still images to the rest of the class who interpret what they see. If one scene has already been presented they should choose a different one to represent. A nice way to expand on this activity is to ask each character in the still image to voice their silent thoughts. For instance, in the moment when Cinderella tries on the shoe, she could be thinking '*Oh wow! Now my life is going to be so much better.....or is it?*'
- b) Tell the class that each of the four corners of the room represents a different opinion (*I completely agree, I partly agree, I partly disagree, I completely disagree*) Read out a series of sentences related to Cinderella. After hearing each sentence the students should go and stand in the part of the room that represents how they feel. They then discuss with the people around them why they are there. Here are some possible sentences to read out..
- 1) *Cinderella's father is the main person to blame for her problems.*
 - 2) *It's Cinderella's responsibility to make her life better.*
 - 3) *Cinderella should go to the party.*
 - 4) *Cinderella should marry the Prince.*
 - 5) *Cinderella is a feminist.*
- c) Ask the students to translate the following sentences into English, writing the English equivalent next to each one.

Arabic	Your translation into English	
1) متأكد أنني سأفعل		
2) اوه، ليس لدينا وقت		
3) ليس بعد. ما زلت أنتظر		
4) من الأفضل أن تأتي معي		
5) لدي الكثير من الأشياء لأفعلها		
6) يوما ما سيأتي شخص ما و سينقذني		
7) سأبدأ عملي الخاص بي		
8) أنا متأكد أنه سوف يأتي		
9) سأحصل على كل ما أريد		
10) سأنتهي دراستي		

d) Now ask them to try to find the English equivalent for each chunk in the script on the next page. (the answers are *I'm sure I will./Oh, there's no time./Not yet. I'm still waiting./You'd better come with me./I have so many things to do./One day someone will come and save me./I'll start my own business./I'm sure he'll come./I'll have whatever I want./I'll finish my studies*) Did they translate the Arabic chunks in the same way? They should write the version from the script in the third column above and compare it to how they wrote it.

e) They practice saying the lines in column three in an appropriate way. They should think about where they will pause, and which words they will stress the most. Then practice saying them to each other in natural/dramatic ways.

f) Write all the sentences on the board, this time with just the first letter of each word. Can they remember the chunks just by looking at the first letters of each word?

I' s I w / O, t n t. / N y . I' s w / Y' b c w m. / I h s m t t d. / O d s w
c a s m / I' s m o b. / I' s h c. / I' h w I w / I' f m s /

g) They work in pairs. Picking two or three of the sentences above they try to write a short dialogue which includes all of them. They then perform their dialogues to the other students.

h) They work in groups of six and go through the script on the next page with one person reading each of the five characters. The sixth person is the director and helps people say the lines in an appropriate way. Now they try to start physicalising it. How would they perform it for an audience - either remotely or face to face?

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Narrator: Sara and Huda are best friends. Today, there's a big party in their school, and now, they are watching the play of "Cinderella". They seem very excited. *[The curtains are opened and Cinderella appears dancing and singing "Lavender blue"]*

Lavender's blue.. dilly dilly...Lavender's green
When I am king... dilly dilly...you shall be queen

[The prince enters. She stops when she sees him]

The prince: Who are you?

Cinderella: I'm Cinderella, Majesty. I'm not a princess. I have no parents.

The prince: It's OK. Will you try this? *[He refers to the shoe]*

Cinderella: Yes, Majesty. *[Cinderella tries the shoe and it fits her. Both of them seem happy.]*

The prince: You're my princess. I promise to make you happy. *[The audience clap happily. Both the prince and Cinderella come closer to greet the audience]*

Narrator: Huda and Sara like the play so much as they live a very hard life like Cinderella. But will they have a happy ending like Cinderella? Let's see! *[Huda and Sara enter. They seem happy]*

Sara: Oh! What a beautiful play!

Huda: Yes, I like it. It's amazing.

Sara: I hope to have a rich and beautiful prince like Cinderella. Someone who saves me from this miserable life.

Huda: *[ironically]* Huhhh ... Save you?! Can you imagine how many Cinderellas there are in the world Hundreds?..... Thousands?Millions? and two. *[she refers to herself and Sara, and smiles]*

And how many princes are there? You're dreaming.

Huda: Hey you.....

Sara: Oh! Stop it, Huda. You're boring. Guess what! I'll do my best to get a prince..... so... First, I must buy beautiful shoes to be ready. You'd better come with me.

Huda: Of course I won't..... I won't wait for a superhero to save me. No one can change my life EXCEPT ME. I'll finish my studies and work hard to make my life better. Then I'll start my own business, and I'll have whatever I want. I'm sure I will.

Sara: [ironically] You know, I can ask my prince to give you a job.

Huda: No dear. Thanks for your great offer.

Sara: Oh, there's no time; I have so many things to do. [Sara leaves in a hurry]

Huda: Wait.... Wait.....

Narrator: Sara believes that one day someone will come and save her; so she bought the shoes to be ready for him. [*Sara appears carrying the shoes*]

Narrator: She waited and waited and waited for weeks... months... years... but... nobody came. [*Huda appears*]

Narrator: Meanwhile Huda finished her studies and started her own business. She became a successful woman.... Ten years later Sara and Huda met.

Huda: Oh! Sara!

Sara: Huda!How are you? I missed you!

Huda: Me too.

Sara: Oh! What a beautiful car! Who's that handsome man?

Huda: This is my car and it's my husband inside. You know... We have our own business now. What about you? Have you found your prince yet?

Sara: Not yet. I'm still waiting, but I'm sure he'll come. I think the problem is in these shoes. I must buy new ones.

Huda: Sara...stop it...You must get rid of these silly shoes and start working hard. Why should you wait for someone to save you!? Why should you wait for a superhero who may NEVER come? Sara, it's your life.... No one can save you EXCEPT YOU.

Sara: You're right Huda... You're right. (Sara throws the shoes away) I have so many things to do.

Huda: (*to the audience*) What about you? You can choose to wait and wait and just wait for others to give you a happy life. And you can choose to work hard to make your happiness and determine your future. It's YOUR LIFE... It's YOUR CHOICE...