



Bella at Midnight

Diane Stanley
HarperCollins Publishers
2006

Novel Resource

Diane Stanley's Homepage:
www.dianestanley.com

Publisher's Homepage:
www.harpercollins.com/

www.harpercollins.com/books/9780060775735/Bella_at_Midnight/index.aspx

About the Author

Diane Stanley danced around writing solo for years. She dissected cadavers and monkey hands, as well as illustrated surgeries at John Hopkins University in the Medical Illustration department, to earn a master's degree in 1970. In 1978 she switched gears and began illustrating children's books and co wrote fiction with her mother. It wasn't until 1983 she wrote a her own book, The Conversation Club, followed by many biographies and four novels.

Ms. Stanley enjoys her three grown children, travel, gardening, and outdoor activities. She is available for conferences and school visits and loves time at home painting and writing.

She has received many accolades, most recently the Washington Post / Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award and the 2008 Mazza Medallion Award.

Annotation

Stanley, Diane. *Bella at Midnight*, New York: HaperCollins Publishers, 2006. Fiction. Bella is raised a peasant, forced to reunite with her family of nobility and stumbles into fulfilling her destiny while saving two kingdoms. This novel addresses family relationships, betrayal, love, and self concept from birth to teen, set in a medieval backdrop of knights, kingdoms, and war through a variety of points of view.

In this Cinderella fairytale Bella's friend for life is Prince Julian. Also included are an undesirable step mother, haughty step sister, fairy god mother, fancy ball and glass slippers.

Stanley uses the voices of Bella and her friends and family to move the plot forward. Written in three parts and detailed by chapters named and voiced by character

witnesses to Bella's tragic birth story, Prince Julian's friendship and betrayal, and an attempt overthrow a kingdom. The story moves through Bella's life, ending at a crossroad that examines birth, death, abandonment, love, betrayal, and self discovery.

Genre & Point of View

First person narrative

This is a multiple voice narrative.

Each chapter is voiced by a different character, nine in total.

It is based on the fairly tale story of Cinderella but carries its own plot very well.

Theme

This is a coming of age story. It includes themes of loyalty, honor, familial relationships, class, and love.

Conflict

Bella struggles to fulfill her destiny.

Conflict Resolution

Bella, although disappointed and angry at Prince Julian, risks her life to save him and the kingdom. Bella rides to warn Julian of a battle in which he will be sacrificed.

Setting

This is a medieval story set in the Kingdom of Moranmoor.

Interest and Reading Level

According to www.permabound.com the

reading level is 6.0

and

interest level is 5-9.

Characters

Name	Page Introduced	Relationship to main character	Personality Traits and Physical Traits
Maud	3	Aunt	Merchant class, thought of as lesser than nobility
Sir Edward of Burning Wood	3	Father	Odd, arrogant, proud Born of nobility Cold eyes Maud suspects he may be crazy
Catherine	3	Mother, Edward's wife	Beautiful delicate
Father	4	Grandfather	Glass merchant and wealthy In poor health Maud suspects he feels guilty over the match of Catherine and Edward
Midwife	8	Assists Catherine birth Bella	Scatter brained Superior attitude Unkempt and dirty clothing Clumsy Thoughtless
Worthy Knight	11	Hero to all Bella will appear as the worthy knight	Predicted to carry a banner of peace Will appear without weapons Will have a halo around his head Will end war
Isabel (Bella)	16	Main Character Much like Cinderella	Pale blue eyes Red-gold curls Fanciful Ethereal
Martin	16	Blacksmith in Claren Father figure who raises Bella	Generous Loving Involved
Beatrice		Mother figure who raises Bella Foster mother to Prince Julian	Sensible Kindhearted Clean Judgmental Little sympathy of the noble class
Prince Julian	18	Bella's friend and Prince Charming	Left Beatrice's care when three years old

Will	23	Bella's foster brother	Will is kind and gentle Has Bella's best interest at heart
Margaret	33	Martin and Beatrice's youngest daughter Foster sister to Bella	Much like Bella
Robert Miller	35	Villager who spanks Bella to quiet her when the village is evacuated because soldiers are coming	Course
Thomas	38	Village neighbor	Argumentative Sour Trouble maker
Henry Carpenter	41	The first person Bella sees when returning to her home	Sorrowful for the loss of his wife and children due to chicken pox
Bucephalus	56	Gift from Julian's father Named after Alexander the Great's horse	Black warhorse 18 hands tall
Horse master	57	Cares for Julian's horse	
Prince John	71	Julian's oldest brother who will become king	First in succession to be king
Princess Berta	71	John's wife	Pompous, conceited, arrogant Bony Whey faced Large nose Weak chin
Princess Alana	71	Prince Gilbert's wife	Fine Understanding Wise
Prince Gilbert	71	John's brother Second in line of succession	Weak minded
Prince Laurent	71	priest	
Rolf	76	In school with Julian	Haughty Pompous Tattle tale
Geoffery	76	In same class as Julian	Handsome Tall Broad shoulders
King Raymond	83	King of Bruatana	
Alice	97	Matilda's youngest daughter	Sweet Innocent

			Reverts to silent introspection after her father dies
Marianne	98	Matilda's oldest daughter	Self centered
Matilda	98	Daughter of a knight	Values money and possessions
Father	97	Matilda's husband	Adventurer Takes care of his family Loving Wealthy
Richard	102	Engaged to Marianne	Eyes close together Tall Fair Close to Marianne's age
Liddy	106	Housemaid	Conniving
Mortran Greatbread	106	Delivers the news that Father is dead Richard's father	Matter of fact Follows protocol Could seem cold
Lord Percy	128	Basila's husband	Gruff Impatient Bearlike pompous
Basila	127	Matilda's sister	
Lady Gwendolyn	133		Lady in waiting
Princess Berta	139	In line to become queen when her husband is king	
Cook	151	In Edward and Matilda's household	Jolly Kind to Bella
King Harry	188	King of Brutanna	Big ears
Prince Adolph	209	King's son marrying Princess Marguerite	
dwarf	212	Entertains at wedding Delivers message from Bella to Julian so Bella can rescue Julian	Untrustworthy Crook Gossip

Booktalk

Top 10 reasons to read Bella at Midnight by Diane Stanley:

10. Cinderella is in a different story
9. Wicked stepmother gets treated wickedly
8. The nasty step sister gets kicked to the curb
7. Kings rule. Battles drool.
6. Boys act like they don't like girls, but we know they do
5. Magical knights will save the day
4. Godmothers are fairy like
3. Princes can love peasants
2. Glass slippers ROCK!
1. Bella will try to make a happily ever after

Bella at Midnight will remind you of Cinderella's story, but Bella is no Cinderella. She must save two kingdoms and her friend, Prince Julian. Along the way meet her step mother and sisters, find three magical gifts, and wait for happily ever after. But don't hold your breath; Bella has a lot of adventure to endure before she has a chance at the prince.

Discussion Questions

Chapter	Page	Anticipation	Post Reading
Book I: The Thimble			
1, Maud	3	From the picture on the cover and the title of the book, what do you think the story is about? How old is Bella?	How did Edward treat Catherine? What type of relationship do you think Edward and Catherine had? Why did Edward send Bella away?
2, Beatrice	17	What type of life do you think Bella will have? .	Describe Beatrice's relationship to Bella. To Prince Julian. Why did Prince Julian return to the castle? How does Beatrice feel about nobility?
3, Beatrice	22	How do you think Beatrice, Bella, and Prince Julian will get along together?	Describe Bella and Julian's relationship. Why do you think Julian calls Bella the mistress of his heart?
4, Will	23	How do you think Will feels about his foster sister?	What did Beatrice think the steward was going to do? What was the purpose of his visit? How does Will feel about his parents raising Bella? Why does Will pretend to be asleep? What reasons does Beatrice give that she cannot raise a child of nobility?
5, Bella	33	Will suggests that his parents will not tell Bella that they are paid to care for her?	Name three things that Bella describes as signals of war. How does Robert Miller quiet a frightened Bella? List three things that Bella is sad about in the castle. Paraphrase Julian's story about Kitty-pair-of-kitties. Bella cried for her kitten, poppet, Henry and the others lost in battle. What does this tell us about her character? What bothers Bella about the solders who wrecked her home and village? Did Britannia win the battle?
6, Prince Julian of Moranmanor	41	What relationship do you think Bella and Julian will have?	Describe the fairly castle Will and Julian built for Bella? What do they use as fairies and why? What story does Julian make up about

			<p>the fairies? How does Bella react to the castle? What does the note from the fairy king say? Why do you think Bella cherished the thimble?</p>
7, Maud	50	Why do you think Maud has stayed away from Bella and Edward for three years?	<p>How does Maud describe Edward? How does Edward feel about Maud? Why do you think he feels this way? Why is Maud so happy at the end of this chapter? What is Maud's plan?</p>
8, Prince Julian of Moranmanor		What is an appropriate present for a 10 year old prince?	<p>Was the horse an appropriate present for Julian? Why/Why not? Describe Julian's ride on the horse. Describe the game Julian and Bella play. Why is Julian so upset about his behavior? Julian says pride is bad. Why? Give an example when pride would be good.</p>
9, Bella	66	Describe Bella and Julian's relationship.	<p>What lesson does Julian give about his falcon? Compare the way Bella and Julian describe princesses. What does Julian say that upsets Bella?</p>
10, Prince Julian of Moranmanor	74	<p>What feelings do you think Julian has for Bella? Does Julian think of Bella as a sister? How could Julian be embarrassed of Bella?</p>	<p>What is Julian looking forward to at the fair? What job do boys have when they are 16 years old? How do the boys treat girls at the fair? What two worlds does Julian say he lives in? Why was Julian embarrassed by Bella? How did Julian react to Bella? What is Julian's role in the truce between Brutanna and Mornamoor? How would you feel if you were Julian?</p>
11, Bella	85	What will Bella's reaction be to Julian's behavior at the fair?	<p>How does Julian's behavior shift Bella's view of the world? What is Bella's reaction to finding out about her birth family? Why does Maud visit Bella? What would you do if you were Bella? How does Bella think Brutannan's love? What gift does Bella share with Maud?</p>
Book II: The Ring			
1, Alice	99	What type of life will Bella have with her father?	<p>Describe Alice. Describe Marianne.</p>

		Do you think Edward has changed since we last met him? Why? Why not?	Describe the girl's mother. Describe father. What happened to Alice's father?
2, Marianne	102	How will Marianne react to her father's death?	Describe Marianne's personality. What does she value?
3, Matilda	107	How will Matilda react to her father's death?	Why is Marianne's engagement broken? How would you feel in Matilda's position? What is Liddy's plan?
4, Marianne	113	How would you feel in Marianne's position?	How does Marianne's image of Richard change? How does Marianne respond to the news of her father's death? Marianne? Describe the change in circumstances for the family.
5, Alice	120	Who is responding best to the new circumstances? Who do you think will be more adaptable?	How did Liddy's plan end? Did Matilda and her girls deserve what happened to them? Why? Why not? What treasure does Alice keep? What is its power?
6, Matilda	128	How will Matilda's family react to their visit?	Is Basila justified in reacting to Matilda's visit the way she did? Explain. What news makes Marianne happy? What type of man does Percy say will marry Matilda? What is Percy's opinion of Alice?
Book III: The Slippers of Glass			
1, Marianne	139	Have you heard of glass slippers in a story before? Based on that, what role do you expect glass slippers to have in the story?	How does Marianne describe Alana? How does she feel about her appointment? Use three words to describe Marianne. Why does Marianne wish to serve Berta? Describe the line of royal succession in this chapter? Does Marianne deserve her new position? Compare and contrast Edward and Marianne's father. What are Marianne's impressions of Maud and Bella? Why is Edward mad about Bella's dress?
2, Bella	149	How do you think Bella and Stepmother will get along? What makes you think so.	How do Edward, Matilda, Marianne, and Alice treat Bella. Make a list. How and where does Bella find her place in the house? Bella appears to feel unworthy of living in the house. Why?

			Describe Bella's dough project. Describe Bella's fantasy about Prince Julian.
3, Matilda	161	List reasons why Matilda could be sad/mad. List reasons Matilda could be happy?	Why does Matilda like Marianne's visits? Retell the story that Marianne tells about the king and queen. Why does the queen consider the king's plan dishonorable? What was Julian's prophecy?
4, Alice	169	Why is Alice quiet? What do you think would make her break her silence?	Describe how Alice disappears. What does Alice see in her father's ring? How does this change her? Why is Marianne mad at Alice? What is Matilda's reaction? Why does Alice give the ring to Bella?
5, Bella	178	What role will the ring play in Bella's life? What other gifts has Bella received?	What is Bella's disguise? What is Bella's plan? Why does Bella say Maud did not visit her at Edward's house? Do you think it was right for Maud to leave Bella alone at her father's home after seeing how the family treated her? Give two reasons that Maud took Bella to her grandfather's home? What excuse does Bella have for crossing into Brutanna? What is Bella surprised to find out about Brutannians?
6, Bella	189	What will happen to Bella at the castle?	What is Bella's mission? What story does Bella make up at the castle? What are some myths Brutannians have about Moranmoor?
Bella, 7	198	How will Bella get out of the kitchen to warn Julian?	What are Maud's gifts to Bella? What does Maud want Bella to take off? Why does Bella refuse? Why did the lad in the workshop make glass slippers? What do you think will happen to the glad slippers? Why do the glass slippers deserve so much time in this chapter?
Bella, 8	207	What will happen to Bella at the castle? Is she prepared for her mission? Has she left anything out?	What does Bella compare the castle to? Why is seating so important at a celebration? What does it mean to be seated close to the host? Far? What did Bella expect Julian's life to be

			<p>like as a hostage? What was it really like? The dwarf's mask has two faces. What symbolism could this be? What did Bella send to Julian?</p>
9, Prince Julian of Moranmore	217	How will Julian respond to Bella's presence?	<p>How does Julian react to the thimble? Why did he value the thimble? Why did Bella tell Julian of her noble background? Do you think Bella's pedigree mattered to Julian? Why? Why not? Give examples of pride as Julian's weakness. What is Bella's plan to rescue Julian? What does the dwarf do when Bella and Julian try to rejoin the celebration?</p>
10, Bella	229	Do you think the plan will work? Do you think the dwarf will interfere with the plan? Why? Why not?	<p>Why does Bella want to warn the villagers about the possible battle? Describe Julian's vow to Bella. Why would Bella think she wouldn't see Julian again? If she doesn't would her plan be worth it? What does Bella see in the ring?</p>
11, Squire Geoffrey of Brennimore	237	What will happen to Bella? Julian?	<p>What relationship does Geoffrey have with Julian? Why did Geoffrey want to a heroic death? Why does Gilbert want to break the truce? Can you think of people, real or fictional, who remind you of Gilbert? Why does Gilbert think Julian is a traitor? Is Julian a traitor? Describe the Worthy Knight's entrance into the battle? How did Gilbert lose his sight?</p>
12, Prince Julian of Moranmore	251	What will Julian's reaction be to the knight?	<p>How are Gilbert and a hooded falcon similar? What did Julian find where he left Bella? What do you think happened to Bella? How is the new truce between Brutanna and Moranmore different from the first? Why did Marianne leave court? Was the Queen's decision justified? Why does Julian call Marianne too familiar?</p>
13, Alice	260	Why does Alice's demeanor change?	<p>Who was in the stall? What did Julian see in the ring? What was the knight's halo?</p>

			<p>Why did Julian make Bella a knight? Describe the knight process. Why did Julian name the Smith's as Bella's parents?</p>
14, Will	269	How will this story end?	<p>Why would Will think Julian's greeting is odd? Why did people laugh when Julian introduces the Worthy Knight? How does Bella reward her family? What important question does Julian ask Martin? Was the ending appropriate? Why or why not?</p>

Vocabulary

<u>Word</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Sumptuous	4	Luxury
Besotted	5	Love struck
Fanatical	5	Devoted
Dowry	5	Gift or payment for marrying a daughter
Compline	7	Worship service or signal
Peril	12	Danger
Solemn	23	Sad
Nuisance	26	Pest
Poppet	33	Doll
Ingenious	45	Clever
Portcullis	46	Decorative architectural detail
Flagon	48	Jug
Dispose	52	Raise
Smote	55	Hit
Flushed	57	Red, blush
Reproach	57	Blame
Piercing	57	Sharp
Dismal	66	Bad, depressing
Whey faced	71	Pale
Devout	71	Dedicated, religious
Tedious	72	Boring
Haughty	76	Proud, stuck up
Pompous	76	Proud, stuck up
Enormity	80	Size big
Ashen	81	Pale
Chasm	82	Gap
Simpleton	85	Goofy, not smart
Esteem	85	Admire
mortification	86	Embarrass
Station	91	Rank, class
Brocade	103	Decoration on clothing, usually lace
Venetian	104	Style of Venice, Italy
Invalid	110	Void, untrue
Calamity	129	Disaster
Mortified	130	Embarrass
Lady in waiting	133	Girl or woman who is a friend and maid to a queen or princess
Askew	142	Crooked
Wimple	142	Cloth that covers a women's head
Regal	141	Royal
Penury	161	Penniless
dishonorable	165	Shameful

Horrid	172	Nasty
Gawky	179	Clumsy
Momentous	180	Important
Curt	180	Rude
Righteous	182	Respectful
Summon	183	Call
Rebuke	194	Scolding
Invincible	206	Unbeatable
Aquiline	215	Hooked, In reference to Julian's nose
Piteously	218	Sadly
Privy	220	Bathroom
Despicable	224	Yucky
Truce	224	Peace
Perilous	231	Dangerous
Traitor	245	Spy
endeavored	253	Lived through
Fathom	259	Understand
Forge	269	Copy
Scythe	269	Cut
Bellows	269	Used to circulate air

Indiana Academic Standards met by novel

Bella at Midnight does not appear on the DOE Indiana Reading List, although the list is not all inclusive.

Math, Science, Art, and Music standards are not directly related to this novel. Below are standards that could be addressed by Bella at Midnight.

Grade Level	Language Arts	Social Studies*	Guidance 6-8 th grade
6	1.4 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9	1.13 2.4	3.3 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.10 3.13 3.14
7	1.1 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.8 3.9		
8	1.1 1.2 1.3 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.8 3.9		

*Although not directly related, Bella at Midnight could give some insight to these standards.

Anticipation Guide

Respond to the following questions before you read the book. After, respond to the questions again.

YES!	NO!	<u>Bella at Midnight</u> <i>Diane Stanley</i>	YES!	NO!
		1. Cinderella stories do not happen in real life.		
		2. Parents love their children.		
		3. All princesses are pretty and mannerly.		
		4. Glass slippers will break.		
		5. Fairy tales have happy endings.		
		6. Brothers and sisters love each other.		
		7. We all have fairy godmothers.		

Read Aloud

Pages 68-71

“Julian climbed back into the saddle...I am not truly a princess.”

This passage shows playful banter between Bella and Julian. It sets the stage for a prince to meet his real life princess.

Pages 17-21, Chapter 2, *Beatrice*

The dialect used by Beatrice is fun to hear out loud. I think students would enjoy her less than positive picture of royalty. It also introduces Bella in a more enticing manner than meeting her during the less engaging first chapter.

If you like Bella at Midnight, you'll love....

The following books by Diane Stanley:

Time Apart, The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine, The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy

The Angel Wings Series by Donna Jo Napoli

Sand Dollar Summer by Kimberly K. Jones

Before Midnight : A Retelling of "Cinderella" (Once upon a Time Series) by Cameron Dokey, Tammie Lyon, Mahlon F. Craft

Adelita : A Mexican Cinderella Story by Tomie dePaola,

The Golden Sandal : A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story by Rebecca Hickox, Will Hillenbrand

Across the Curriculum Connections

Overview: 6.6 Data Analysis and Probability

Students compute and analyze statistical measures for data sets. They determine theoretical and experimental probabilities and use them to make predictions about events.

6.6.1: Organize and display single-variable data in appropriate graphs and stem-and-leaf plots, and explain which types of graphs are appropriate for various data sets.

Materials & Supplies

Paper
Ruler
Pencil/Crayons/Markers

Assignment

The chapters titles in Bella at Midnight make me think of graphing. Students could list each character and the number of chapters they voices. They would convert the data into a bar graph and answer questions such as: Who has the most chapters? Least?

Guidance: 6-8.3.6

Describe the adolescent need for peer acceptance and how it may affect some students' ability to show kindness and respect for others.

Bella at Midnight lends itself in many ways to discuss adolescents' attitudes and behaviors. I would explore peer pressure because it is brilliantly demonstrated in Prince Julian's behavior toward Bella at the fair.

This activity is adapted from Tom Jackson's book Activities that Teach, Publisher's Press, 1993. The activity is called Bet You Can't and illustrates that prior planning can help students make better decisions.

Students will form two lines facing each other, wide enough for two people to walk between. Students at the beginning of the line will take turns, two at a time, walking between the lines. Their goal is not to smile before they get to the end and rejoin the lines. If they don't smile they can remain in their original line (team), if they smile they move to the other line (team). The longest line (team) when everyone has had a chance to walk wins. The lines cannot touch the walkers, throw things, or interfere with the walker's path. They may make noises.

Discussion Questions:

What happened during the activity?

How did it feel to walk the line?

What strategies worked or didn't work to make it?

Book Activities

Activity 1: In student's ongoing journals they will list five of adjectives that describe each of the character listed below. This assignment will not be graded. It could be used as a prewriting exercise for other activities related to Bella at Midnight.

6.4.1

Organization and Focus:

Discuss ideas for writing, keep a list or notebook of ideas, and use graphic organizers to plan writing. (Core Standard)

This is an individual activity.

1. Bella
2. Prince Julian
3. Marianne
4. King George
5. Beatrice
6. Matilda

Activity 2: Paraphrase Julian's story about Kitty-pair-of-kitties, page 33

Standard 6.5.8

Write summaries that contain the main ideas of the reading selection and the most significant details. (Core Standard)

This is an individual activity.

Potential Summary-Bella's kitten was lost while villagers evacuated. Bella's kitty had a twin. It was good. Bella's kitty was, to quote Julian, a rascal. Kitty jumped onto a bad man, who had hurt Bella, and scratched him. He made a mess looking for milk, landing in butter churn. He rolled down a hill and took a nap. Upon waking, he joined the battle by jumping on soldiers' helmet and hissing in their faces. He will become a knight for his heroism.

Points to look for in summaries:

1. Personality trait of Kitty and his twin
2. Scratching man
3. Eating cream
4. Fighting soldiers
5. Knighthood

Sources used to create this novel resource

<http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/StandardSearch.aspx>

www.dianestanley.com

[www.harpercollins.com/books/9780060775735/Bella at Midnight/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/books/9780060775735/Bella_at_Midnight/index.aspx)

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<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/about/>

<http://www.donnajonapoli.com/>

<http://www.kidsreads.com/reviews/0060775734.asp>

<http://www.jcclin.org/>

[Activities that Teach](#), Tom Jackson's Publisher's Press, 1993