

Deepen Your Understanding

At Madame Edith's Finishing school, young ladies are taught basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also are taught to sew with very small stitches, to sing with sweet voices, to eat with dainty appetites and manners, and to dance with grace. It is clear that Madame Edith, Father, Dame Olga, and even Hattie and Olive consider these important skills. These characters reinforce certain *stereotypes* that Ella confronts in her life.

Using specific examples from the text, write a paragraph that answers the following questions about the heroine of *Ella Enchanted*:

- How well does Ella acquire the “feminine” accomplishments described above?
- What value does she place on these skills?
- How does Ella measure up to the stereotypes of “proper” feminine behavior? To what extent does she resemble the original Cinderella?
- What does Ella represent for readers today?