

THE VERY WICKED WITCHES

Based on Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'

Literacy and Art



TWO
MINUTE
TALES
from
SHAKESPEARE

Introduction to Shakespeare's Macbeth, reimagined for little ones by Hopster's Two Minute Tales. The Very Wicked Witches tells a two-minute tale about a boy and girl out for a walk when they meet three wicked witches.



Learning Aim: To meet key characters, learn about the setting and story plot of The Very Wicked Witches.

The Play: Macbeth is a brave Scottish general who receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife he kills the king and becomes the new king. He is so wracked by guilt and paranoia that in the end it drives him mad.

KEY CHARACTERS



3 Witches



Macbeth



Friend
Macbeth's Friend

THE EPISODE

When a little girl's friend is threatened by witches, she has to do the very things she didn't want to do in order to save him.



KEY THEME: AMBITION

Don't ask others to do what you wouldn't do yourself.



HIDDEN SHAKESPEARE

Somewhere in this episode there is an image of Shakespeare. Can you find it?

Learning Aim: To introduce kids to some well known Shakespearean words and phrases and accelerate learning with talking points and games



LANGUAGE LEARNING GLOSSARY

Cauldron: A large metal pot used for cooking over an open fire

Fiddlesticks: Used to express impatience or frustration

Vanish: To disappear



FAMOUS PHRASES

*“Double, double toil and trouble;
fire burn and caldron bubble.”:*

The witches chant this when creating the spell.

*“Win us with honest trifles,
to betrays in deepest consequence.”:* Honest trifles means small truths and that lead to a great betrayal.

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair”:
Means that appearances can be deceiving.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who did Macbeth and the girl meet when they were out walking?
- What were the three things that the witches said would happen?
- What was at the top of the tree?
- How did the little girl rescue Macbeth?
- Do you think the little girl was a good friend?

PLAY WITCH’S CAULDRON

Sit in a circle with the kids. The first person begins by saying, “I am the witch, and in my cauldron I put...” and names something spooky. The person next to it repeats what the first person says and adds another item. Continue around the circle adding ingredients as you go.

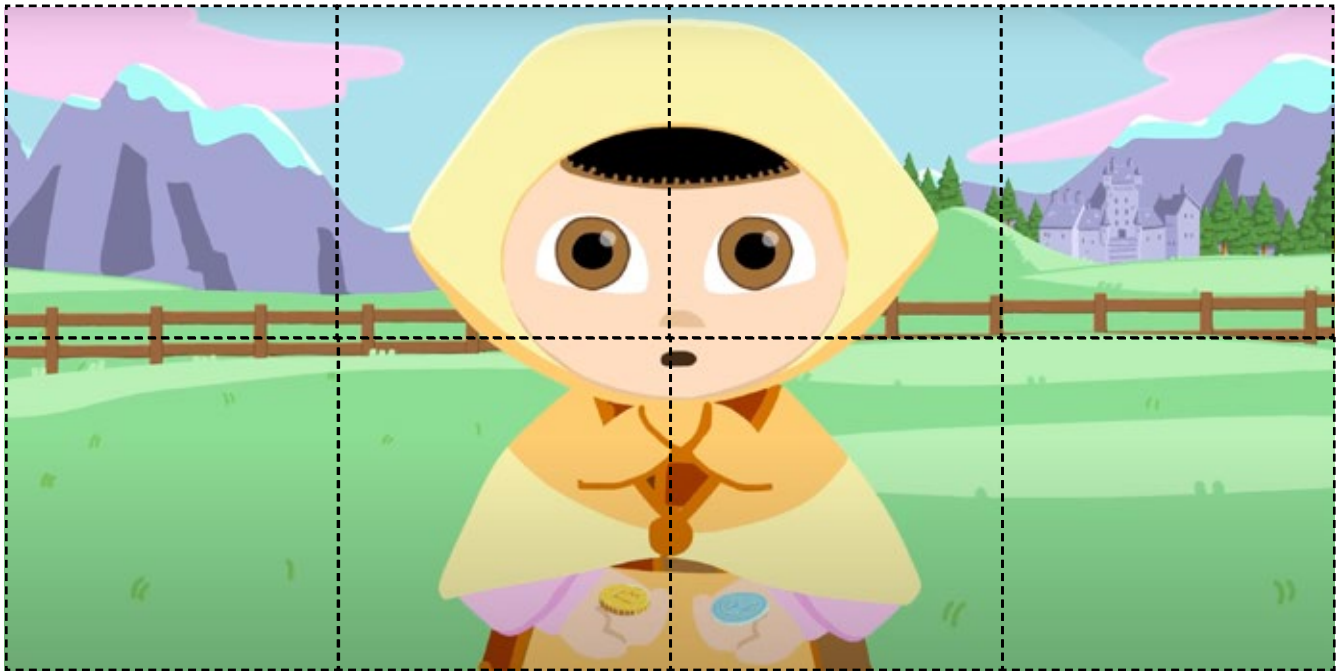
If someone gets an item wrong, they’re out, the last player in the circle wins.

Instruction: Use the colour key to colour the picture

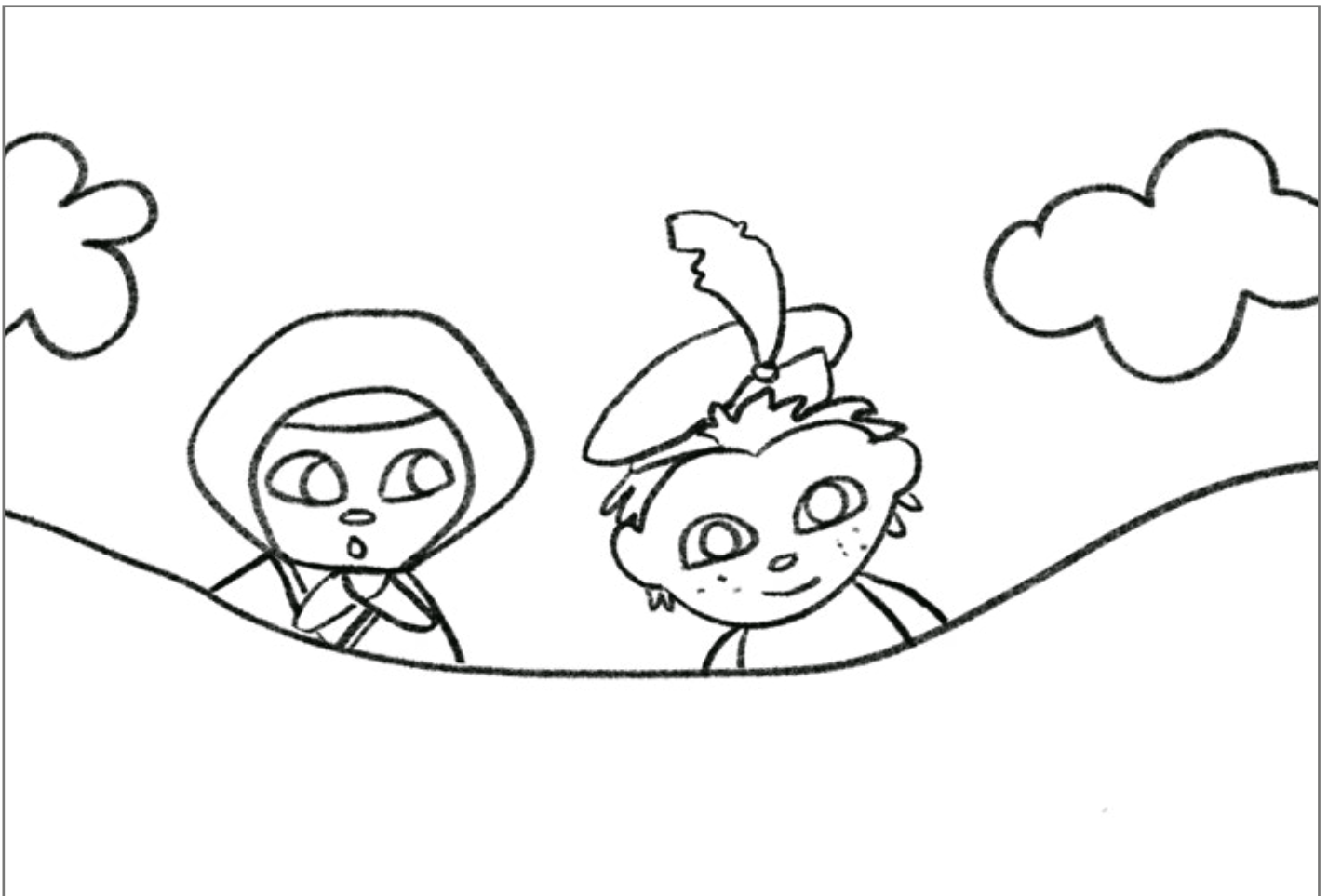
0-Black, 1-Green, 2-Violet, 3-Orange, 4-Blue, 5-Brown, 6-Pink



JIGSAW PUZZLE



COLOURING: COLOUR MACBETH AND HIS FRIEND



Learning Aim: To sequence and retell the story of The Very Wicked Witches.

Learning Purpose: To deepen the child's understanding of narrative through sequencing the story from beginning to end and to develop confident storytelling using visual prompts.

STORYTELLING BRIEF

Materials: A4 white paper, scissors, printer

After watching the show, sequence the cards in order to retell the story. Let your child think about how the story begins, what happens in the middle and how it ends. Use the cards to retell The Very Wicked Witches together, encourage your kid to use the name of the characters and some new words like cauldron and vanish.



Learning Aim: To make stick puppet characters and use them to retell the story.

Learning Purpose: By making stick puppets, children will explore **characterisation** and **setting** in a fun way. They can use the scenes of the mountains to create their own retelling of the story. This will encourage them to think about scene changes and how they can **change** their voices and expressions to suit the setting.

ACTIVITY TIME: MAKE YOUR OWN THEATRE, STICK PUPPETS & BACKDROPS

Instructions:

- 1 - Colour each of the templates for the puppets then use scissors to cut them out.
- 2 - Check that your child can name each puppet.
- 3 - Use glue to attach the puppet to a craft stick.
- 4 - Colour the theatre scenes.



Make a puppet theatre and film it. Encourage your child to retell the story of The Very Wicked Witches by using the stick puppets and sets to recreate scenes.

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Activity Time: Make Your Own Theatre & Stick Puppets & Backdrops



