

An Open Lesson

Superstitions

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Training Teacher: Channi Shklar

Student: Yahalomit Madar

I.D. No.: 082

Date: June 2, 2009

Class: 9th grade

School: Da'at, Kibbutz Sa'ad

Lesson Plan

School: Da'at	Teacher: Yahalomit Madar	Materials: flashcards
Date: 02.06.09	Textbook:	board
Class: 9 th	Unit:	worksheet
No. Pupils:	Page(s):	
Topic: superstitions		

Time/ Pace	Domains & Benchmarks	Lesson Goals (Swabat)	Enabling Skills	Procedure	Vocabulary and lexical chunks	
9:15	<u>Social interaction-</u> * Interact for purposes such as discussing. * Express personal wishes and opinions <u>Appreciation of culture-</u> Discuss different cultural behaviors and traditions.	speak about the topic express their opinions	* Speaking * General knowledge	→ Putting each card at a time on the board and asking what they have in common. Thereby, the pupils will try to guess what the topic of the lesson is. Questions for discussion: what can you tell me about these superstitions? What do you think of them? Are you superstitious? Which of these superstitions do you believe in?... → Introducing today's vocabulary. W.C	<u>Core</u> *superstition *superstitious *boast *associated with *extinct * fortune *originate	<u>Expansion</u>
9: 40	<u>Access to info. -</u> understand the main ideas and supporting details in a text and use this knowledge as needed	understand the meaning of the passage	*Reading *relevant voca.	* Reading the first paragraph- W.C The pupils continue reading the passage by themselves + filling the chart .(I) * The pupils share with each other the info. that was given in their texts		

	Social Interaction- interact for purposes such as sharing info.	discuss different superstitions		(pair work), and finish filling the chart. * reviewing their answers -W.C (AN OPTION: pupils can present one superstition according to the chart) NOTE: if there is enough time, the pupils will keep answering the rest of the questions.		
9:45	<u>Social Interaction-</u> ask and answer questions about today's topic <u>Appreciation of literature-</u> Discuss the theme in a literally text	The pupils will be exposed to a piece of literature connected to today's topic	reading Speaking	Closure- reading a poem written by Shel Silverstein and discussing it.		

The Super Guide to Superstitions

Do you sometimes knock on wood when you're telling someone good news? Or do you ever cross the street because you don't want a black cat to cross your path? If you do, then you are one of the millions of people who are superstitious, even if they don't admit it. This guide will give you more information about certain superstitions, so when things don't go well, you can blame the evil spirits!

1 Knocking on wood is one of the most well-known superstitions. People knock on woods after making a prediction, boasting, or speaking of good fortune. This comes from a time when people believed that jealous spirits were always nearby, ready to spoil their happiness. They thought that when they knocked on wood, the evil spirits would be frightened away by the noise.

2 What happens when you break a mirror? Well, besides having to clean up the mess, many people believe that if you break a mirror, you'll have seven years of bad luck. The belief originates from ancient times, when people believed that if they broke a mirror, they would destroy their soul. If, however, you do by chance break a mirror, don't worry. There is something you can do to keep the bad luck away. You can bury the broken pieces in the ground. According to the believers in superstition, the bad luck will stop when all the glass is hidden under the ground.



3 There are more superstitions about cats than about any other animal. In ancient Egypt, people believed that cats brought luck and it was illegal to harm them. However, in Europe, during the Middle Ages, thousands of cats were killed because they were associated with evil. By 1400 they were almost extinct there.

Sometimes lonely old women took cats in to keep them company and the women would curse anyone who treated the cat badly. If anyone who was cursed became ill, he or she would accuse the women of being witches. Often, both witches and cats were put to death.

Many historians believe that the Black Death, which killed tens of thousands of people in the 13th and 14th centuries, was spread by the fleas that live on rats, but, unfortunately, due to the superstitions about cats being evil, by this time there were too few cats to kill the rats. The rats ran free and, as a result, the Black Death killed two-thirds of the population of Europe.

1 fleas- פשפשים



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4 If you go to the United States, you will probably find that most buildings go from the twelfth to the fourteenth floor with no thirteenth in between. Fear of the number 13 is one of the most common superstitions and many people refuse to live or work on the 13th floor. Many people will not begin a new job or do anything else new in their lives on the 13th of the month.

The fear of the number 13 is scientifically known as tridecaphobia. Friday the 13th is considered particularly unlucky in America and England and there are people who will not leave their houses on that day. Psychologists believe that people can really create their own bad luck on those days by paying so much attention to the date. Jews are usually not superstitious about the number 13 because in Judaism 13 is often associated with positive events. Moslem Arabs are also not superstitious about the number 13, although Christian Arabs sometimes are.

13

5 Have you ever had dinner with someone who accidentally spills the salt and then quickly throw a pinch of salt over his or her left shoulder? This is an ancient custom which was meant to keep away any evil spirits who might be looking over someone's left shoulder. This idea was to prevent the spirits from hurting that person by bribing them with salt, which was very precious at the time.

6 There are many superstitions connected to sport and it's surprising the number of players who are superstitious. For example, the basketball superstar Michel Jordan wouldn't play unless he wore his blue University of North Carolina shorts under his red Chicago Bulls shorts for good luck. Turk Wendell, the basketball player, won't play unless he brushes his teeth between every inning. And, of course, few players want to wear the number 13 on their shirt. Perhaps you'll have better luck at sports if you follow these superstitions:

Ω In a basketball game, the last person to shoot a basket during the warm-up will have a good game.

Ω You won't get the foul shot into the basket unless you bounce the ball first.

Ω If you're getting high scores at bowling and want this to continue, always wear the same clothes.

Ω In a Tennis match, you should be aware that it's bad luck to hold more than two balls at a time when serving.

Even if you don't believe in these superstitions, you will have a good excuse the next time you lose a game.



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1. Complete the following chart according to the text.
2. Exchange the information with your partner in order to fill in what is not mentioned in your text. You can use the following questions:
What can you tell about...? What is the reason of doing it?
3. Add one more superstition which is not mentioned in the text.

Describe it according to the chart.

superstition	reason of believing in it	solution for 'erasing' the bad luck	one additional fact
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
extra:			

Answer the following questions:

1. Choose the correct answer, according to Texts 2 and 6.

The writer's attitude to superstitions is serious.

YES \ NO

Copy the sentence/ phrase that justifies your answer.

2. Which superstition had very serious results? Why? (text 3)

Writing Task:

Write one paragraph in your notebook describing how you feel about superstitions. Do you believe in them? Why or why not?