

TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH-WOMAN

Teeny-Tiny and the Witch-Woman

by Barbara Walker (Pantheon)

Themes: Halloween

Grade Level: K-9

Running Time: 14 minutes, animated

Summary

TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH-WOMAN is a Turkish folktale based on a theme very similar to that of Hansel and Gretel. The story concerns three brothers who are told not to venture into the woods in order to avoid the wrath of the wicked witch who lives there.

One day, the boys take a chance, against the wishes of the youngest brother, Teeny-Tiny, and find the home of the witch. The older brothers, Big-One and In-the-Middle, willingly go inside. Teeny-Tiny follows reluctantly behind.

Once inside, the witch offers them a meal and a bed for the night. Teeny-Tiny suspects that this witch is indeed the witch they were warned about. That night, Teeny-Tiny resists sleep. When the witch calls to the boys to see if they are asleep, Teeny-Tiny tells the witch that he needs one thing after another before he will be able to sleep.

Eventually, Teeny-Tiny asks for water from the well. He sees the witch leave her magic soap, needle, and knife behind before she goes out to collect the water. Teeny-Tiny wakes his brothers, warns them about the evil witch, and the three escape with Teeny-Tiny snatching the witch's three magical objects on the way.

The end of the story finds Teeny-Tiny using the magical objects to keep the pursuing witch away from himself and his brothers. Teeny-Tiny and his brothers return safely home, never again to venture into the forest which is the home of the evil witch.

Objectives

- Children will learn that being young does not mean being

less intelligent or creative than those who are older

- Children will investigate the importance of listening to one's own thoughts and feelings
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Teeny-Tiny and the Witch Woman with children.

Then ask:

What kind of boy was Teeny-Tiny (possible answers - he was scared, brave, smart, small.) Have the children write a simple character study, and draw a picture.

Talk with children about their favorite fairy tales. Ask: Why are these stories your favorites? If you could be one of the characters in the story, which would you be? Why? What is the scariest fairy tale you ever heard? Which fairy tale had the happiest ending?

Find a version of Hansel and Gretel and share it with the children. Explain that different countries have different versions of fairy and folk tales. (For example, Cinderella is retold in China, France, Africa and Germany.

After Viewing Activities

Talk with children about the fence made of bones, the trees that looked like people, and the witch's house whose windows and doors appeared to make a sad or frightening face. Then supply art materials that children can use to create their own witch's house in the deep, dark woods. You might include popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, dried leaves, corrugated cardboard, toothpicks, and pieces of styrofoam among the supplies offered to children. Later, display children's creations on a classroom table.

Encourage children to think about the ways Teeny-Tiny

used his head to solve various problems he was confronted with. Ask: Why did Teeny-Tiny climb the tree when he and his brothers were in the forest? Why did Teeny-Tiny keep asking the witch for food and drink after he went to bed? Why did Teeny-Tiny ask the witch to bring him water from the well? Why did he take the magical objects?

Help children understand that Teeny-Tiny listened to his own thoughts and fears concerning the witch, and that this is what, in the end, saved him and his brothers. Encourage children to try and recall fears or other strong feelings they may have had about something or ideas they had that were important to them. As children talk, stress the importance of listening to, and developing a respect for one's own feelings and thoughts.

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