Roald Dahl®

The Witches
How to Recognise a Witch

Overview

Learning objective
• To be able to research and prepare presentations.

Learning outcome
• To present research on witches through a poster or interview.

Book reference
• Prior to reading to chapter 3: How to Recognise a Witch.

Cross-curricular link
• Literacy, ICT, Drama.

Resources
• Craft materials for poster making.

Starter

• The children describe or draw what they think a typical witch might look like.
• Individuals explain their drawings or descriptions to the rest of the class.

Main teaching activity

• Read the chapter How to Recognise a Witch.
• Explain to the children that they are now going to become witchophiles.

“‘What is a witchophile, Grandmamma?’
‘A person who studies witches and knows a lot about them.’

• Tell the children that, as witchophiles, it is their job to tell the world about witches.
Group or independent activity

• In groups, the children complete this task: The BBC has seen your poster and wants to do an interview with a witchophile to learn more about these witches. The news reporter has to ask lots of questions and interview the witchophile to learn more about them. The witchophile needs to get the message out that witches are dangerous and answer all the questions.

• In pairs, the students prepare an interview for the BBC between a news reporter and a witchophile.
Plenary

• Students present their interviews to the class.

Other activities

• In groups, the children create a poster to warn people about witches to explain how to recognise a witch.

• A local sweet shop owner called Mrs Pratchett has been accused of being a witch. Mrs Pratchett does not like children but owns a sweetshop and she always wears gloves and has very big messy hair and stained teeth. The BBC has invited her to be interviewed to defend herself against such accusations. Students prepare the interview between a BBC news reporter and Mrs Pratchett.