

Lesson Plan 5 - Storytelling, Wakes & Hobbies

Activity 1 (10 minutes)

Their own stories

Ask the children to tell some of their own stories (H/W from Hiberno-English/Folklore session). Allow the children to read their stories aloud to their friends.

Activity 2 (10 minutes)

Superstitions

Show PowerPoint. Ask the children to explain the superstitions represented in the picture.

Ask them 'Why do we have such superstitions?' and give them examples on the next slide as a clue.

Explain to them that many of our superstitions today are based on common sense, and that the superstitions were used as a more interesting, sometimes threatening way to teach people common *do's* and *don'ts*.

Go back to the slide with the various superstitions and see if they can work out the common sense.

Ask them after this to think of something they are commonly told to do (or not to do), and invent a superstition based on this.

E.g. – <i>Common sense;</i>	don't walk with your hands in your pocket
<i>Superstition;</i>	fairies eat your fingernails if you have your hands in your pocket while walking
<i>Real reason;</i>	you may fall on your face if you walk with your hands in your pockets

Activity 3 (20 minutes)

Hobbies and wakes

Ask the children if they know what a wake is. Show them pictures of a traditional Irish wake and have them *say what they see*. Explain that wakes were like this in Ireland up until recently and play some wake with them;

For example

- 1) Tail of the donkey, eye of the pig, ear of the fox
- 2) The best tailor
 - *Have two children at a time try to thread a needle while being distracted*
- 3) Riddle; push the ... through the hole in the paper, without changing the hole
 - *Ask the children to push their pencil case, chair or schoolbag (any item bigger than the hole) itself through a small hole in a piece of paper. The solution is to put your fingertip through the hole and physically move the item.*
- 4) Are you stronger than an egg?
 - *Have the pupils try to break an egg between the palms of their hands, with hands rigidly straight on the side of the egg. Teachers, watch this on YouTube first, so you know what to do (it can be messy if you don't understand!).*

Activity 4 (10-15 minutes)

Storytelling, Clann Lir

Get the children round in a circle, seated or on the floor. Close all curtains in room and turn on a small halogen lamp (this is your 'fireside'). Tell the children they are at the fireside. Have the story broken down on pieces of paper, according to the number of pupils in the class. Explain the importance of storytelling, and how/where it would have happened. Every child will have a numbered piece of the story and they will read out in sequence. Help with pronunciation of names if necessary. Change the pictures on the PowerPoint as the story is being told.

Explain at the end that the story has a Christian influence that pre-dates both Catholicism and Protestantism.

Resources

Homework stories from the Folklore session

PowerPoint presentation

Games - sticky tape and pictures of animals

- big plastic sewing needles and pipe cleaners
- pieces of paper with small hole in centre (A4 cut into 4 works well)
- eggs and aprons