Teacher's notes and answer key

Vasilisa and the Witch Baba Yaga

Subjects: English · Ethics | recommended from age 13 (A2/B1) | Video: 8:56 min

Answers B

1. A carved wooden doll: keep it with you, show it to no one, feed it and ask it for advice when you are sad.
2. She had to do the hardest work; the stepsisters made fun of her and dressed up themselves.
3. She secretly put out the last light in the house; someone had to fetch fire from Baba Yaga.
4. White (morning), red (sun), black (night) – Baba Yaga calls them her day, her sun and her night.
5. “My dead mother's blessing helps me.”

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

D1: In the video Baba Yaga is a guardian of the border between worlds rather than a simple villain: she sets cruel tasks but keeps her word and gives Vasilisa the fire. D2: the blessing and intuition of the dead mother living on in her daughter.

E: Stepmother and stepsisters in both; help from the dead mother (the doll / the tree on the grave and birds); sorting grain / picking lentils out of the ashes; Vasilisa: the stepfamily turns to ash, Cinderella (Grimm, 1857): doves peck out the sisters' eyes.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 13. The video shows a fence of bones with glowing skulls; at the end the stepmother and her daughters are burned to ash. Please preview the video.

Source of the retelling: Russian folk tale “Vasilisa the Beautiful”, collected in the 19th century (Afanasyev).

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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