The Morrígan – the Goddess Who Knew How the Battle Would End

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 8:58 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/wme2XnEJk_c

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Which animals are seen as bad omens or as clever where you live? Name one and say why.

B · While watching

1. Who were the Tuatha Dé Danann, and how did the Morrígan usually appear?

2. Why did King Nuada lose his throne – and how did he get it back?

3. What did the Morrígan promise the Dagda at the ford?

4. How was the giant Balor defeated?

5. What did the Morrígan announce after the victory?

Useful words

raven / crow	Rabe / Krähe	sling	Schleuder
ford	Furt	giant	Riese
shapeshifter	Gestaltwandlerin	victory	Sieg
prophecy	Prophezeiung	fate	Schicksal

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Lugh, master of all skills, becomes war leader.
	Lugh kills Balor with a stone from his sling.
	The Tuatha Dé Danann defeat the Fir Bolg; Nuada loses an arm.
	The armies meet on the plain of Mag Tuired.
	Bres rules as a mean tyrant.
	The Morrígan proclaims peace and foretells the end of the world.
	Nuada gets a silver arm and becomes king again.
	The Morrígan meets the Dagda at a ford and makes a promise.

D · Think and discuss

1. Why does the Morrígan foretell doom at the very moment of victory? What is the story trying to say?

2. Her prophecy speaks of people without honour, loyalty or shame. Does that fit our time too?

E · Who is who in the battle?

For each figure, write down who they are and what role they play in the battle.

	Who is it?	Role in the battle
Lugh		
Balor		
Dian Cécht and Goibniu		
The Morrígan (with Badb and Macha)		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write the Morrígan's report from the battlefield – from the point of view of the raven circling above (8–10 sentences).