Vasilisa and the Witch Baba Yaga

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



Watch the video
youtu.be/WWgr07V0zF4

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Which witches do you know from fairy tales? Name one story and describe the witch in it.

B · While watching

1. What did Vasilisa's mother give her before she died – and what did she tell her to do?

2. How did her stepmother and stepsisters treat Vasilisa?

3. What trick did the stepmother use to send her to Baba Yaga?

4. Which three riders does Vasilisa meet, and what do they stand for?

5. What does Vasilisa answer when Baba Yaga asks how she managed the tasks?

Useful words

stepmother	Stiefmutter	skull	Schädel
wooden doll	Holzpuppe	chaff	Spreu
witch	Hexe	blessing	Segen
hut	Hütte	rider	Reiter

C · Put the story in order

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

	The stepmother secretly puts out the last light in the house.
	Vasilisa is given a skull with glowing eyes as her fire.
	Vasilisa's mother dies and gives her a wooden doll.
	Baba Yaga orders her to separate wheat from chaff and dirt.
	Her father marries a widow with two daughters.
	Nothing is left of the stepmother and her daughters but ashes.
	The family moves to the edge of a dark forest.
	Three riders in white, red and black cross Vasilisa's path.

D · Think and discuss

1. Is Baba Yaga simply evil? Give examples from the video.

2. What could the doll stand for? Tip: the end of the video offers an interpretation.

E · Vasilisa and Cinderella

Compare Vasilisa with the Brothers Grimm version of “Cinderella”.

	Vasilisa	Cinderella (Grimm)
Who makes the heroine's life hard?		
Who or what helps her?		
What impossible task does she face?		
How does it end for her rivals?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, tell the night in Baba Yaga's hut from the doll's point of view (8–10 sentences). What does it see, hear and think?