

The Story of The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple

A folktale from Russia

Recommended Key Stage: 1 and 2

Synopsis: When the father of three young girls has to go away on business, he asks his daughters what present they would like him to bring them when he returns. The two older daughters ask for silks and satins but the youngest daughter, called Little Stupid by her older sisters, asks for a silver saucer and a lovely juicy apple.

When the youngest daughter has her gift, she spins the apple in the saucer and she can see wonderful images from the world. This makes the sisters jealous and they plot to take the saucer and the apple by force.

One day, out berry-picking, the older sisters chop off Little Stupid's head with an axe and take the apple and the saucer. But for the sisters, the magic does not work. They bury their sister, the saucer and the apple and tell their father Little Stupid was eaten by a wolf.

A year later, a reed grows from the earth, and a shepherd-boy finds it and starts to sing a magic song.

Digging down, he finds the apple spinning in the saucer turning itself to a juicy mulch. He pours it down the throat of the body of Little Stupid, and she returns to life.

Part 1: Share the Story

Watch the video **Stories from the Woodshed: The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple**.

Find Nizhny Novgorod on a map of Russia (it is east of Moscow) or use **Resource A: Map of Russia showing Nizhny Novgorod**

Part 2: Discuss the story

Use the questions below to begin a discussion about the story

KS1 questions	KS2 questions
- The two older sisters called their youngest sister 'Little Stupid'. Do you think that was a good name for her? - What three words would best describe Little Stupid? - If you were one of the sisters in the story, what might you ask for from the father when he went away for work? Would you choose silks and satins, juicy apples or something different?	- What does it mean to be 'beautiful on the inside...'? Little Stupid is beautiful on the inside. Could her sisters be described in the way? Tell someone else your idea and see if they agree with you. - Can you explain why the sisters wanted to swap their fine silks and satins for Little Stupid's saucer and apple? - Why didn't the silver saucer and the juicy apple show the sisters any images when they spun the apple? - This story is centred around the themes of growth, spring and new life. Mindmap words associated with these themes. - What references to nature appear in the story? How does the reed growing from the earth reflect the rebirth of Little Stupid? - Would you describe the story as a story of hope? Why or why not?

Part 3: Play the Story

KS1 activities	KS2 activities
Story Walk - Students stand in their own space around the room. They have each become Little Stupid in their own story worlds. - Read out Resource B line by line. As you read, the students use the space to mime the story.	Role Play the Next Chapter The story Anna Conomos tells ends once the shepherd boy has used the apple juice to bring Little Stupid back to life. - In small groups, think about what will happen in the next chapter of the story. What will Little Stupid do next? What happened to her sisters? Did they change? What happened to the saucer now that the apple has been drunk? - Share ideas together before choosing one to role play. - Groups role play and perform the next scene.
Guess the Scene - Use Resource C. Cut up the slips and put them in a hat. A student takes a slip and performs a simple mime. The rest of the students guess what section of the story is being represented. - As a development, divide the class into teams. A representative from each team takes a slip and both mime the scene at the same time. The quickest team to guess the moment wins a point.	The Story of the Silver Saucer - Imagine that the Silver Saucer has been created by a magician. A volunteer comes to sit in the hotseat. The rest of the class ask questions to build the character of the creator of the silver saucer. (NB: A magician does not have to be a man with a long beard and a starry robe!) Questions could include: - Who are you? - Where do you live? - How did you discover magic? - Why did you create a silver saucer? - What gave you the idea for the silver saucer? - What did you want your silver saucer to do? - Did you give the saucer to the merchant? If so, why? If not, how did he get it?

Part 4: Story Stimulus

KS1 Activities	KS2 Activities
What Will You See? When Little Stupid looks into the saucer she sees all the good things in the world. What would you like to see? What will happen in the miniature world? Describe everything you see. You could draw pictures to help your descriptions and create a story about what happened there.	The Next Chapter The story ends when the shepherd boy has used the apple juice to bring Little Stupid back to life. Write the next chapter of the story, perhaps using the ideas from the previous activity. What will Little Stupid do? Will she find a way to punish her sisters or will she forgive them? Will Little Stupid marry the shepherd boy?

Part 5: Taking it Further

Similar Stories to **The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple**:

Cinderella (Europe)
Aschenputtel (Europe)
Snow White (Europe)

Folk tales from Russia:

Riaba the Hen
Ivan and the Frog Princess
The Gigantic Turnip
Baba Yaga's Black Geese
Baba Yaga's Daughter

Wider Curriculum Links

KS1 PSHE

- about what is kind and unkind behaviour, and how this can affect others
- how to talk about and share their opinions on things that matter to them
- about how to treat themselves and others with respect; how to be polite and courteous

KS2 PSHE

- to recognise that feelings can change over time and range in intensity
- everyday things that affect feelings and the importance of expressing feelings
- a varied vocabulary to use when talking about feelings; about how to express feelings in different ways
- strategies to respond to feelings, including intense or conflicting feelings; how to manage and respond to feelings appropriately and proportionately in different situations

The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple

Resource A: Map of Russia showing Nizhny Novgorod



"road-map-of-Russia" by Marie Thérèse Hébert & Jean Robert Thibault is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple

Resource B: Story Walk

Story Walk Prompts

- You are a young girl (or boy), you are good and innocent. Wave to everyone around you and give them all a big smile.
- Your papa is going away on business. Tell him you'd like a silver saucer (mime the shape in the air) and a juicy apple (pretend to take a large bite out of an apple)
- When he comes back help him down off the carriage, lead him inside, dust him off and give him some plates of food.
- He gives you the gift. How exciting! Show your excitement!
- Spin the saucer so the apple goes round and round. Look into the saucer with big eyes. It's amazing!
- You can see rivers and lakes and thick forests (pretend to splash in the water), the Tsar and Tsarina on their throne (bow low), villages and people dancing and singing (dance around your space), a string of stars in the sky (try to pick the stars from the sky).
- Your sisters are envious of your gift! Try to hide it from them.
- You go berry picking with them. Pick berries off the bushes and be careful not to prick yourself on the sharp thorns! Put some berries into your saucer. You could try one – mmm!
- Look for your sisters, they have an axe! They want your saucer and apple so try to keep it away from them. They grab your hair and pull you down to the ground where they kill you.
- Lie in the mound, cold and still.
- What's this? Light is on your face, it's warm and someone is tipping apple juice into your mouth. Gulp the juice down. Feel life returning to your body. Stretch out as far as you can. Reach your arms out and stretch your fingers. Reach your legs out and stretch even to the tips of your toes!
- Jump up out of the mound of earth and turn to look at the shepherd who has saved you!

The Silver Saucer and Juicy Apple

Resource C: Scenes to use from the Story

Print the sheet out and cut up the sheet along the lines. Place the pieces into a hat or box and participants can randomly draw a scene out and then mime it for the others to guess.

Little Stupid asks her papa for a silver saucer and a juicy apple.	Papa leaves his daughters and travels away on business.	The daughters wave goodbye to their papa.
Papa returns and the eldest daughters snatch the fabrics from the carriage.	Little Stupid helps her papa from the carriage and gives him some food.	Little Stupid spins the apple in the saucer and sees all the wonderful things in the world.
The elder sisters are jealous of Little Stupid and plot against her.	Little Stupid picks wild berries.	The elder sisters use their axe to chop off Little Stupid's head.
The silver saucer and the apple do not work for the older sisters.	The sisters bury Little Stupid in the wood.	The sisters go back to Papa and tell him Little Stupid was eaten by wolves.
A reed grows from the earth. The shepherd-boy finds it, and starts to play music on it.	The shepherd boy digs up Little Stupid and gives her the apple juice.	Little Stupid wakes up to new life.