

## **GUEST LESSON GERMANY: Silhouettes from fairy tales: “Snow White”**

Subject Guest Lesson Germany: Silhouettes from fairy tales: “Snow White”

TOPIC of the module Fairy tales (Snow White)

Age of students 10-13

(number of students, if relevant) one class (around 25)

Required prior knowledge none

Objectives - what students are supposed to know, or to be able to do:

At the end of the lesson the students will be able to...

- classify the Brothers Grimm as the collectors and writers of many fairy tales
- place them in Kassel, Germany
- re-tell a fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm
- create silhouettes from black paper

Opportunities - Other things students might also learn although it's not the main goal

- work together in a team to create appropriate silhouettes/paper cuttings for re-telling a part of the fairy tale
- position their cuttings on an overhead projector in an appropriate manner

Arts involved silhouettes( paper cuttings) (Scherenschnitte)

Resources - presentations, links to websites, materials, equipment, etc...

- scissors
- overhead projector
- pencils
- back paper

Time frame - number of lessons and duration of lessons

One lesson of 60 minutes

Methods of work (individual, pair work, group work, ...)

Presentation, classroom discussion, group work, presentation in the classroom

Procedure / steps

First we presented some facts about the Brothers Grimm: They actually spent a part of their lives in Kassel where they collected stories which had, up to this time, only been passed on orally from one generation to the next. They became acquainted with Dorothea Viehmann, who

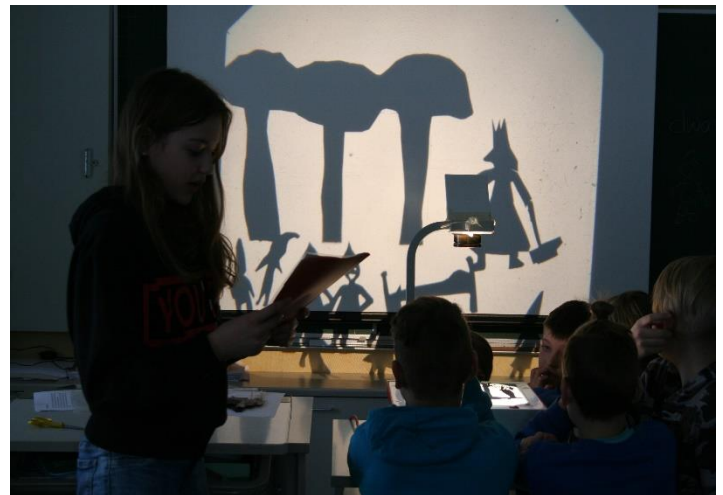
was a German storyteller und whose stories became an important source for the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm.

After this brief introduction we all recapped the fairy tale “Snow White” (as the topic of our Erasmus-meeting in Finland was “snow”) thereby showing some of the silhouettes we had brought (complicated figures like a castle and a princess that take time in making) on the overhead projector.

In the next phase the students went into groups. Each group was assigned one part of the fairy tale. Now each of our students helped one of the Finnish groups cutting out appropriate silhouettes or the respective part of the tale.

During the last 15 minutes, “Snow White” was read by the German students while the Finnish teams presented their silhouettes on the projector.





Evaluation summary and comments about how the lesson went: engagement of the students, difficulty, effectiveness, improvement suggestions ...)

We taught this guest lesson in Finland and a similar one in Poland (Sleeping Beauty). We were of the impression that all participating students (German and host students) and teachers had a lot of fun, were quite committed and learned something about our culture.

On the whole it is a good way of introducing some of our German culture to the students because everyone knows one or two fairy tales. It also provides information about our hometown Kassel, which lies directly on the "German Fairy Tale Route" and the students get to work hands-on and perform in the course of the lesson.

The difficulties were the time and the language: Although we had prepared the content, silhouettes and materials well, it took some time to get used to the students and recapping the fairy tale. The lesson can be done in 45 minutes, but it is much better in a 60-minute time frame. Once the students got the idea of how to do the paper cuttings, they had so much fun with different shapes and figures. It would be a shame to interrupt them in the middle of this creative phase. So it is a good idea to allow for at least 10-15 minutes here.

Despite having broken down the fairy tale into very simple English and although all students had a general idea of the storyline, it was still difficult for some groups to understand the context (fairy tales can be quite complex). With the help of the classroom teacher we were able to translate the most important terms, but this also required more time than anticipated. All in all, having enough time for the students to present their part of the story in the end (again 10-15 minutes) is essential for them to see the results of their work and the effect the silhouettes have on visualizing and emphasizing certain aspects of the story.