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Present

Fungus the Bogeyman

by

Raymond Briggs

adapted for stage

by Marcus Romer

EDUCATION PACK
Things to know about Raymond Briggs

- Briggs was born on the 18th of January 1934 in Wimbledon Park, London.

- His father Ernest was a milk man for the co-op for over 30 years and he was awarded a certificate.

- His mother Ethel was also in the service but as a maid and also worked for over 30 years but was not awarded a certificate.

- At the age of 10 Briggs gained a scholarship to Rutlish Grammar School in Surrey where he took speech lessons.

- Before the age of 11 Briggs wanted to be a reporter

- At the age of 15 he entered an art school and after 2 years was awarded an intermediate art certificate.

- After 2 further years he was awarded a national diploma of design certificate but was then conscripted to the army at Catterick for the Royal Signal Corps.

- Then after another 2 years at London University he was awarded the diploma of fine art certificate.

- From 1957 he concentrated on his books and became an established writer and illustrator of his own books including; The Snowman, Fungus the Bogeyman, Where the Wind Blows and the complete Father Christmas. The character of Father Christmas was based on Briggs’ own father.

- In 1961 Briggs took the position of a part time lecturer in illustration at Brighton College of Art in Sussex.

- He married Jean Taprell Clark in 1963. She also had a love for painting and illustration but sadly died in 1973.

- Briggs won a Kate Greenaway medal in 1966 for the illustration of the nursery rhyme book - The Mother Goose Treasury.

- Lots of Briggs’ books have been translated into many languages and adapted for films, plays and TV cartoons.

- Briggs now enjoys growing fruits, gardening vegetables and listening to modern jazz.
**Fungus the Bogeyman activities**

**Literacy**

1. Ask the children to choose one of the characters from the book – Fungus, Mildew (his wife), Mould (their son). Discuss: how the character moves - how they look – what they wear - how they smell – where they live – what they sound like. Make a list of descriptive words – adjectives and adverbs and use these to help write a poem about each character.

2. In the book there are both some very long and unusual words and some made up words. Write down a selection on cards and then ask the children to come up with 3 possible meanings for each word – in teams or pairs they can then play a version of the word game “give us a clue” and try and guess the correct meaning.
   Some to get started -
   *Heliophobus*
   *Dasymeter*
   *Geniculates*
   *Debenture*

**Drama and Music**

In the play – there are two dry cleaner characters who live in the above world and are humans like us! They are called Miriam and her daughter, Maxine. When Fungus and Mould venture above ground there are some surprising adventures between them all!

Work with children in small groups to create the following tableaux or still pictures.
Think about: where they are, how they would react, their personality and what they would be thinking. Once you have created a basic freeze frame change the situation to the next suggestion.

Fungus and Mould see the Drycleaners, eating breakfast for the first time.

Miriam sees some mould in the dustbin in her garden and nearly discovers Fungus.

Mould meeting Maxine for the first time

Mould and Maxine going down below into Bogeydom on an adventure

Miriam and Fungus looking for their children.

Develop this work by imagining the thought bubbles coming out of each character – they could look at the book to see some more thought bubbles!

Ask the children to select an instrument that represents each character and say why you chose this instrument e.g. Fungus - you could choose a trombone as it is deep and could be used to conjure up a picture of Fungus’ way of walking and moving - you could imagine him plodding along to this instrument. If possible play or listen to some of these instruments.

- If you do not have instruments - you could talk about the quality and nature of the sound of the instruments and then choose a sound you can make yourself through clapping and rhythm work, vocal sounds etc.

- Create a piece of music/sound that can be played to each tableau/still image.

- Create/show the tableaux again with accompanying sound.
RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENT

In the play Fungus’ world – Bogeydom - consists of things the drycleaners have discarded or thrown away – in other words he lives in a recycled environment.

Here are some questions for discussion

• What materials do we recycle?

• What do you recycle at home – make a list of where you take your recycling (eg compost heap, bottle bank etc)

• What do these materials get turned into?

• What materials could we recycle which we don’t at the moment?

• Find out if your school have a recycling policy? If so do you know what it says and can you think of ways to make it even better? If not start the process of making a policy!

• In some parts of the world people, and particularly children, have to make a living from recycling our rubbish – try and find out which countries this happens in. What do you think about this?

• Look on packaging and containers at home and copy out the various recycling symbols.

• Research to find out what each one means.
ART and DESIGN

Read the page in the book where Fungus gets dressed in the morning.

“Bogeymen wear wet underwear next to their skin. Then comes a layer of very damp woolly clothes. On top of this they wear soggy leather jackets and trousers and blubber bogey boots.”
Using the costume drawing of Fungus as an example

- Design and draw a costume for each of the other characters e.g. Maxine - is she fashionable? Is she a tom boy? Would her clothes be clean? In particular think about texture and the sort of materials and colour.
- The costume drawings can have pieces of material attached/or notes on the side - try and use as may found or recycled materials as possible.

These could be framed and displayed in your own National Bogey Gallery. Look at the page in the book where Fungus is thinking about the family visits to the Gallery on a Sunday afternoon.

The play will need at least two locations – Bogeydom and the world of the Drycleaners. Discuss how the two worlds are different.

- Design a set for a production of Fungus the Bogeyman. Think about the differences you discussed above –
- The next stage would be to make a model of the design – you could make this in a cut away shoe or cardboard box to act as the theatre.

Other design ideas

- Design and make their own monster or creature from another world - you could talk about the tooth fairy, the Grinch, Lord of the Rings etc. Again make the creatures from recycled materials - maybe they can incorporate packaging materials, plastic bottles, material from an old shirt etc. Useful other books to read and look at include, Stig of the Dump and Skellig.

- Design and make a Fungus the Bogeyman board game – this could be a snakes and ladders type game or ven Fungus Monopoly! Look at the illustrations in the book and either try and do your pictures in the style of Raymond Briggs or make up your own.