

SUPERSTITIONS

GOOD AND BAD: DO YOU
BELIEVE IN THEM?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT BRING GOOD LUCK?
 - WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT BRING BAD LUCK?
 - WHAT ARE OTHER SUPERSTITIONS THAT EXIST?
-

1. FRIDAY THE 13TH

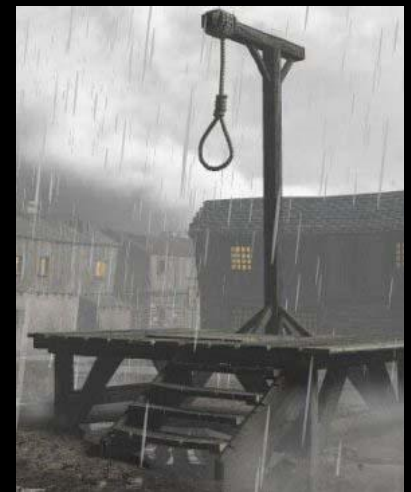
- FRIDAY THE 13TH IS CONSIDERED AN UNLUCKY DAY (ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN TRADITION, JESUS DIED ON A FRIDAY)
- THE NUMBER “13” HAS BEEN CONSIDERED UNLUCKY FOR A LONG TIME SINCE “12” IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE PERFECT NUMBER (12 MONTHS / 12 HOURS ON THE CLOCK / 12 APOSTLES / ETC.)
- DID YOU KNOW THAT MOST BUILDINGS DON'T EVEN HAVE A 13TH FLOOR?



QUESTIONS: HAS SOMETHING UNLUCKY HAPPENED TO YOU OR SOMEONE ON FRIDAY OR “TUESDAY” THE 13TH?

2. WALKING UNDER A LADDER

- WALKING UNDER A LADDER IS CONSIDERED BAD LUCK
- THE REASON IT IS CONSIDERED BAD LUCK IS BECAUSE LADDERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH GALLOWS AND EXECUTIONS
- **ANOTHER** POPULAR BELIEF IS BECAUSE A LADDER CAN CREATE A TRIANGLE SHAPE. THIS TRIANGLE SHAPE CAN BE INTERPRETED AS THE HOLY TRINITY (FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY GHOST). WALKING THROUGH THE LADDER WOULD BREAK THE TRIANGLE AND BE BLASPHEMOUS



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER WALKED UNDER A LADDER OR DO YOU AVOID IT?

3. SPILLING SALT

- SPILLING SALT IS CONSIDERED BAD LUCK
- THIS SPICE WAS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE DURING ANCIENT TIMES AND THE ELIZABETHAN ERA (1558 – 1603)
- THE MOST COMMON BELIEF REQUIRES YOU TO TOSS SOME SALT OVER YOUR LEFT SHOULDER INTO THE DEVIL'S FACE WHO IS THERE
- ANOTHER POPULAR REASON COMES FROM THE LAST SUPPER BY LEONARDO DA VINCI WHERE JUDAS SPILLED THE SALT



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER SPILLED SALT? DO YOU DO ANYTHING WHEN IT HAPPENS?

4. BLACK CATS CROSSING YOUR PATH

- BLACK CATS CROSSING YOUR PATH IS CONSIDERED BAD LUCK
- MOST LIKELY, THE SUPERSTITIONS COMES FROM THE OLD BELIEF THAT WITCHES HAVE BLACK CATS
- IT WASN'T UNTIL THE MIDDLE-AGES IN EUROPE WHEN THE CAT BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH WITCHES.
- THE BELIEF WAS THAT WITCHES WOULD TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO BLACK CATS TO WALK AROUND THE STREETS AND LOOK FOR PEOPLE TO HEX
- THE COLOR BLACK IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH EVI



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BLACK CAT? DID YOU THINK IT WAS BAD LUCK?

5. BREAKING A MIRROR

- BREAKING A MIRROR GIVES YOU BAD LUCK FOR SEVEN YEARS!
- THE SUPERSTITIONS COMES FROM THE BELIEF THAT MIRRORS DON'T JUST REFLECT YOUR IMAGE, THEY ALSO HOLD PIECES OF YOUR SOUL. IF YOU BROKE A MIRROR, YOUR SOUL WAS TRAPPED IN THE PIECES OF THE MIRROR
- ESSENTIALLY, A BROKEN MIRROR CREATED A BROKEN SOUL



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER BROKEN A MIRROR? DID IT GIVE YOU BAD LUCK?

6. OPENING AN UMBRELLA INSIDE

- OPENING AN UMBRELLA INSIDE BRINGS YOU BAD LUCK
- LEGEND SAYS THAT A ROMAN WOMAN OPENED HER UMBRELLA INSIDE HER HOUSE AND MOMENTS LATER, HER HOUSE COLLAPSED
- ANOTHER STORY IS ABOUT A BRITISH PRINCE WHO RECEIVED TWO UMBRELLAS FROM A VISITING KING AND HE DIED TWO MONTHS LATER



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER OPENED AN UMBRELLA INSIDE?

7. KNOCKING ON WOOD

- KNOCKING ON WOOD WARDS OFF BAD LUCK
- THE FIXATION ON WOOD MAY COME FROM OLD MYTHS ABOUT GOOD SPIRITS LIVING IN TREES
- IN ENGLISH FOLKLORE, PEOPLE WOULD KNOCK ON WOOD WHILE TELLING SECRETS TO HIDE THEIR COMMUNICATION FROM EVIL SPIRITS AND TALK MORE IN PRIVATE
- IT CAN ALSO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN CROSS WHICH WAS MADE OF WOOD



QUESTIONS: WHAT WOULD BE A SITUATION WHERE YOU WOULD KNOCK ON WOOD? HAVE YOU EVER KNOCKED ON WOOD?

8. CROSSING YOUR FINGERS

- PEOPLE WISHING FOR GOOD LUCK WILL OFTEN CROSS THEIR FINGERS
- THE REASON, AS THE STORY GOES, IS THAT TWO PEOPLE USED TO CROSS INDEX FINGERS WHEN MAKING A WISH, A SYMBOL OF SUPPORT FROM A FRIEND
- THE TRADITION BECAME SOMETHING PEOPLE COULD DO BY THEMSELVES AND NOWADAYS, JUST SAYING “FINGERS CROSSED” IS ENOUGH
- CROSSING YOUR FINGERS CAN ALSO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN CROSS



QUESTIONS: HAVE YOU EVER CROSSED YOUR FINGERS? FOR WHAT?

OTHER SUPERSTITIONS

- AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY
- FINDING A FOUR LEAF CLOVER IS GOOD LUCK
- STEP ON A CRACK, BREAK YOUR MOTHER'S BACK
- AT THE END OF A RAINBOW IS A POT OF GOLD
- A RABBIT'S FOOT BRINGS GOOD LUCK
- GARLIC PROTECTS AGAINST VAMPIRES
- RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE WITH LUGGAGE ON NEW YEAR'S WILL MAKE YOU TRAVEL MORE



WHICH ONE DO I USE???

-ANOTHER: USE “ANOTHER” FOR SINGULAR COUNTABLE NOUNS

1. LET’S WATCH A MOVIE ANOTHER DAY.

2. SHE HAS ANOTHER CELLPHONE NOW.

-OTHER: USE “OTHER” FOR PLURALS OR UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

1. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

2. SHE HAS OTHER NECKLACES AT HER HOUSE.

3. THAT BOOK HAS OTHER INFORMATION.

-THE OTHER: SPECIFIC

1. THE OTHER DAY, I WENT TO TEXAS.

2. CAN YOU PASS ME THE OTHER BOOKS?

EXERCISE: MAKE TWO SENTENCES WITH EACH WORD