

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

THE CURSE OF THE DARKLING MILL by Otfried Preussler



www.florisbooks.co.uk

FLYWAYS Series Summary

The children's fiction series Flyways was conceived in response to the general decline in children's literacy levels. The series provides high quality, imaginative and thought-provoking fiction to children who are currently unchallenged by the majority of available reading material. The Flyways series includes a high percentage of prize-winning international literature, as well as books by new and established authors.

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Sorcery and magic; friendship

Book Summary

Fourteen-year-old Krabat is a homeless orphan living in Germany in the seventeenth century. Drawn by powers beyond his control, he finds himself mysteriously apprenticed to a mill in the fens. Strange things happen: time passes at an unnatural pace, and the Miller's eleven other journeymen can turn themselves into ravens and other creatures. Krabat is trapped by an evil power, but he begins to learn the magic for himself and plots his escape. This is an eerie tale which keeps you guessing.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: talk about magic in our country. What stories do we know about magic, and how do we remember/celebrate them in our culture?
- Discussion: what is a mill? What does it do? What is wrong with the cover of the book?
- Discussion: talk about different forms of transport. How did people get about before the combustion engine was invented?

AFTER READING

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph describing which bit of the story was the most exciting, and why.
- Imagine you couldn't just go to the shops to buy food. Write about how you would find food to eat in the countryside. What would you do if you couldn't find any?

Group Activities

- Discussion: does shape-shifting really exist?
- Discussion: what is the difference between black and white magic?

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean:
 - quarrelled
 - ignore
 - blurred
 - exception
 - transformed
 - serious
 - power
 - severe
 - limping
 - gnats
 - cackling
 - speckled
 - disagree
 - fierce

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CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P6-P7, S1-S3

Reading:

Reading for Information
Reading to Reflect
Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in groups
Talking about texts
Talking about experiences, feeling and opinions

Writing:

Functional
Imaginative

National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stages 2 and 3

English: Reading

Reading Strategies

Response to Texts, inc analysing and evaluating

Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading

Text-Level Writing

Vocabulary