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Viewing Activities

(For Ages 10+)

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Name:



Date:

Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble ...

Hundreds of years ago alchemists were collecting ingredients for secret potions. One of their wishes was to create a recipe to transmute (change) cheap metals such as lead and copper into gold.

They experimented with many different ingredients. Some were easily found, for example leaves, water, milk, cobwebs and beetles. Others, such as moss from ancient gravestones, quicksilver (mercury) and crocodile teeth were harder to obtain. Urine, newts' eyes, bats' blood and old ear wax were disgusting. 'Vampires' fangs, fairies' tears and dragons' livers* could be added for that special touch. Sometimes the alchemists would write their recipes in code to prevent others from copying them. Magical symbols and special chants were also used. The alchemists never succeeded in their quest for making gold but they did discover many techniques and new substances that modern chemists still use today.

Here is one recipe for making gold (unfortunately it didn't work!)

INGREDIENTS

- A brain from a small dog (still warm)
- 2 teaspoons of droppings from a pet white mouse
- A large dollop of fresh snail slime
- 1 pennyweight of unicorn horn (finely ground)
- 3 yellow feathers from the crest of a cockatoo
- A dozen copper coins

METHOD

Beat the first 3 ingredients together.
Carefully pour the mixture into a small cauldron and heat until the mixture starts to froth and bubble. Slowly add the horn, pinch by pinch, and stir clockwise twice.
When the mixture begins to glow, add the feathers and the coins, one at a time.
Remove from the heat and when the smoke clears you will find what you are after.



* This is use of "artistic licence".
Ask your teacher what this means.

▶ *Related Outcome* Students recall details from a short text on alchemy and invent their own recipe to create gold.

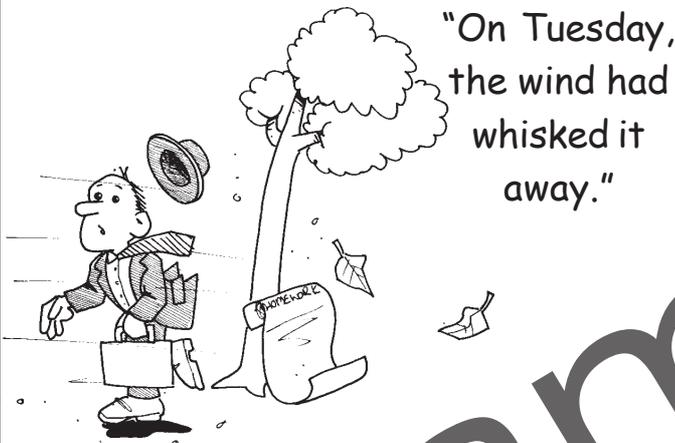
COMIC STRIP

Excuses, excuses!



**"Why I
didn't hand
in my
homework"**

by Stephan
Nonsense



Next week:
Stephan explains
why he hasn't washed
for a week.

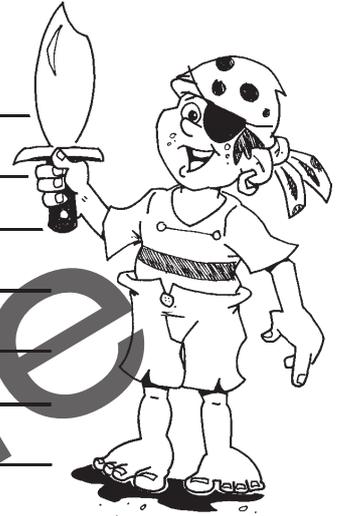
Fancy Dress Invitation **Activity**

★ Use the invitation on page 19 to complete the following:

The party will be held from _____ to _____
on _____ at _____.

Some children have already decided what they are going to wear. Use the clues to discover their costumes. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------|
| Brittany | small child | <i>baby</i> | _____ |
| Grace | spectre | | _____ |
| Alice | ET | | _____ |
| Diana | GP | | _____ |
| Shane | serpent | | _____ |
| Wayne | abracadabra | | _____ |
| Paulo | sea robber | | _____ |
| Jake | writes for newspapers | | _____ |



What would you wear? _____

★ There are a number of abbreviations in this invitation. Write down what they mean (you may need to use a dictionary to help you).

- RSVP - _____ ps. - _____
p.m. - _____ ph. - _____

Use your dictionary skills to discover the meaning of the following.



- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ATM - _____ | NB - _____ |
| BO - _____ | WWW - _____ |
| CD - _____ | VIP - _____ |
| PTO - _____ | E.g. - _____ |

Find 3 more abbreviations and write down their meanings.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

► *Related Outcome* Students use the information found in a birthday invitation to complete a short cloze activity and identify common abbreviations. Students use their own knowledge to solve a puzzle.