Knock on Wood

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Dear Family Partner,

In English, we are studying Edgar Allan Poe and Horror Stories. I hope you enjoy this activity with me. It will help me understand different parts of horror stories. This assignment is due__________________.

Thank you,
____________________________
(Student Signature)

Objective: Identify different superstitions and effects on different people.

Materials: Pen/pencil, this worksheet

Procedure:
1. Ask your family partner the following questions and discuss his/her answers.

Who is your family partner (name/relation)?
______________________________________________________________________

A. Together list as many superstitions that you have heard of. If you run out of room, you can write them on a separate sheet of paper. (A superstition is defined as an unreasoning awe or fear of something unknown, mysterious, or imaginary, esp. in connection with religion. Example: You will have bad luck if a black cat crosses your path.)

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

B. How do these superstitions affect people who believe in them?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

C. Do you believe in these superstitions? Why?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

D. How do you react to superstitions? (ex. If a black cat begins to cross your path, do you turn to avoid it?)

______________________________________________________________________
2. By yourself, think about the information we have learned about Poe and “The Tell-Tale Heart,” which we read in class. Answer the following questions.

A. What superstition/s did the murderer believe and discuss in “The Tell-Tale Heart”?

B. How did this affect the murderer?

C. How did the murderer’s belief in the superstition change your view of him and his actions?

Discussion: Discuss with your partner the effects of the murderer’s superstitions in the story. Compare the superstitions of today with the superstitions in the “Tell-Tale Heart”. Do you think that superstitions are as well known and believed in today as they were in Poe’s time?

Home-To-School Communication:

Dear Family Partner:
Please give me your reactions to your student’s work on this activity. Write YES or NO for each statement.

1. My student understood the homework and was able to discuss it
2. My student and I enjoyed the activity
3. This assignment helped me know what my student is learning in English.

Other Comments:

Family Partner Signature: ___________________________