



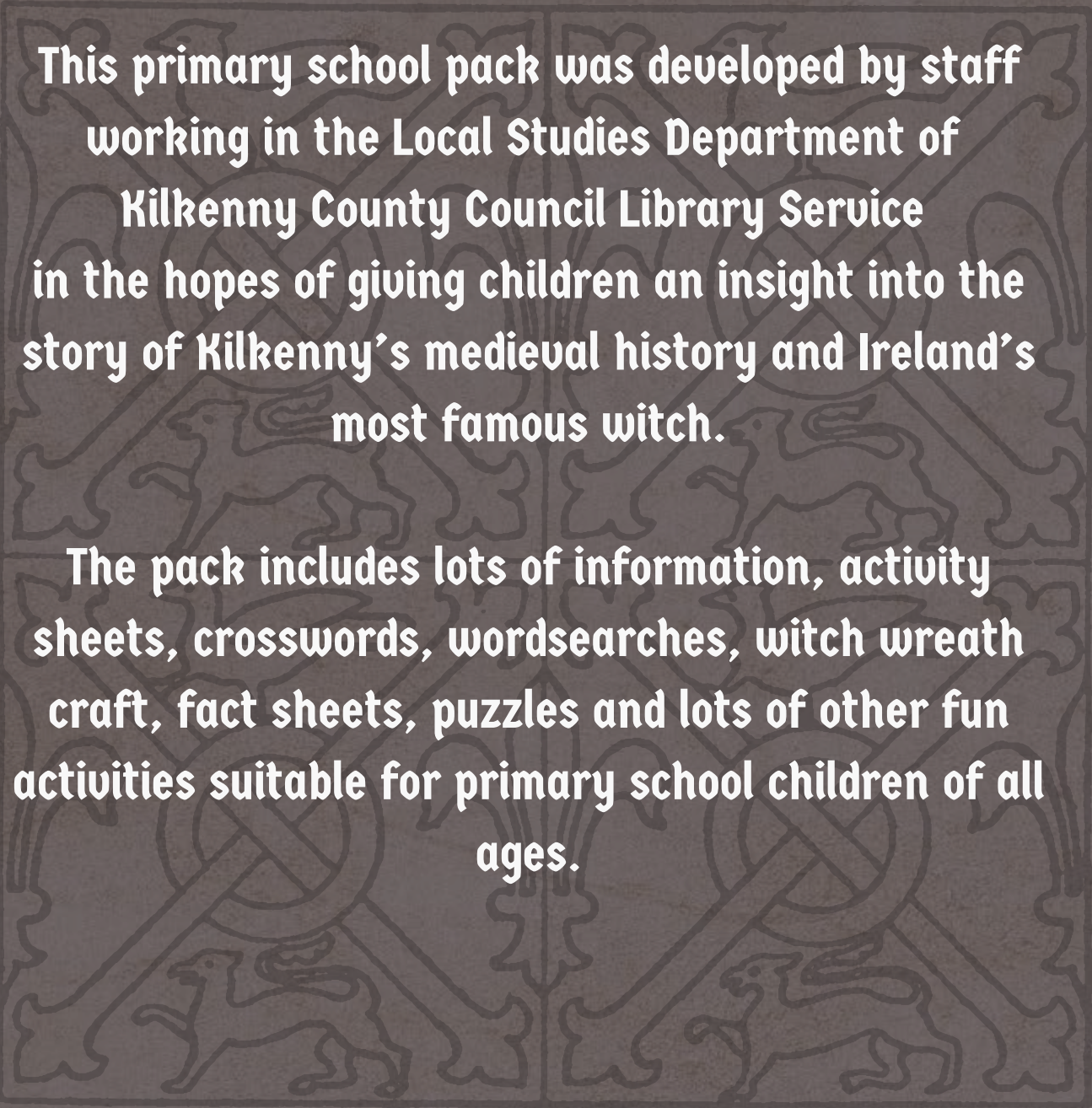
# ilkenny's oil & rouble

Kilkenny County Council  
Library Service

SCHOOLS' ACTIVITY PACK







**This primary school pack was developed by staff working in the Local Studies Department of Kilkenny County Council Library Service in the hopes of giving children an insight into the story of Kilkenny's medieval history and Ireland's most famous witch.**

**The pack includes lots of information, activity sheets, crosswords, wordsearches, witch wreath craft, fact sheets, puzzles and lots of other fun activities suitable for primary school children of all ages.**



# Facts about Witchcraft in Ireland

- Alice Kyteler was the first person to be condemned for witchcraft in Ireland. She was also accused of being a heretic. A heretic is someone who goes against the beliefs and teachings of the church.
- Not all witches in Ireland were seen as bad. One woman in particular, Biddy Early, was known as a healer, herbalist and a “white witch”. She was also known as “The Wise Woman of Clare”.
- Ireland did not have as many witchcraft trials as other European countries. Only Four witchcraft trials ever took place in Ireland.
- Florence Newton was known as “The Witch of Youghal”. She was arrested but no one knows what happened to her as the court papers were lost.
- The Witches of Islandmagee were a group of eight women who were found guilty of witchcraft in Co. Antrim in 1711. The case became known as “Ireland’s Salem”.
- Bridget Cleary was Ireland’s “last witch”.
- Men could also be accused of witchcraft, not just women.





# **The Story of Alice Kyteler and Petronilla**

**Alice Kyteler was born in Kilkenny around 1260. Her family came from a place called Flanders in Belgium. The Kytelers were a very rich family and they were merchants.**

**Alice married her first husband, who was named William Outlaw, around the year 1280. William Outlaw was also wealthy and he was a money lender. They had a son who they also called William. William Outlaw Sr. died and Alice got remarried.**

**Alice's second husband was named Adam Le Blund and he was from Callan. They married in 1302 and he was also a money lender. Adam died a few years later and in 1309 Alice married for the third time.**

**Her third husband was Richard de Valle, who was a landowner from Tipperary. Richard also died and Alice got married again.**

**Alice's fourth and final husband (that we know of!) was a knight named Sir John le Poer. They were married by 1324. In 1324 Alice was accused of being a witch.**

**All of Alice's husbands were wealthy landowners or merchants and she came from a rich family herself. This made Alice a very powerful woman. Her stepchildren were angry at the fact that Alice was so wealthy. They became suspicious and claimed that Alice was poisoning her husband John.**

**They accused Alice of using witchcraft to kill her husbands and they brought their complaint to a man named Richard Ledrede, who was the bishop of Ossory. Being a bishop made Richard a very powerful man. Ledrede was a very religious man who was suspicious of anything that went against the Church.**



**Alice was a very respected lady in Kilkenny and this meant that she had some very powerful friends. This led to Bishop Ledrede being arrested and locked in a cell in Kilkenny Castle.**

**While he was locked in the castle, he cancelled all masses, baptisms, funerals and weddings in Kilkenny. This made the ordinary people of Kilkenny very scared as it was an unusual thing to do.**

**Alice Kyteler escaped from Kilkenny after Ledrede was released from Kilkenny Castle. As Alice was no longer in Kilkenny and no one had any idea where she went, Ledrede arrested a woman named Petronilla, who knew Alice. There is very little known about Petronilla - some records say she was Alice's maid but we don't know for sure.**

**Petronilla was locked up and tortured until she admitted to practicing witchcraft with Alice. In November 1324 she was burnt at the stake somewhere in Kilkenny. This most likely took place somewhere outside of the city centre as it would have been dangerous to set a fire in the city.**

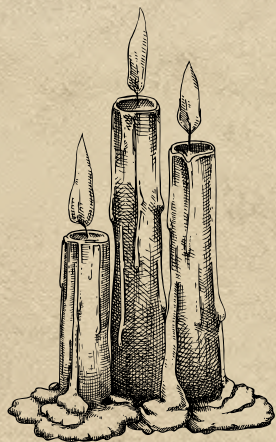
**William Outlaw, Alice's son was also accused of witchcraft. As a punishment he was ordered to fix the roof of St Canice's Cathedral and go to mass every day.**

**We think Richard Ledrede lived to be about 90 years old.**

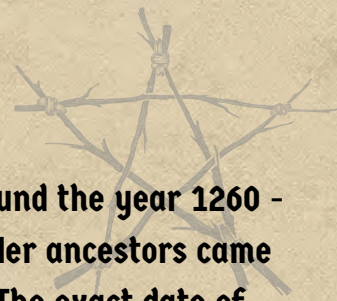
**We know the story of Alice Kyteler and Petronilla because Richard Ledrede wrote it down in a book called The Red Book of Ossory which still exists today and can be seen in St. Canice's Cathedral.**







# TIMELINE OF Alice Kyteler



**CIRCA 1260**  
BIRTH

Alice Kyteler was born around the year 1260 - some records state 1263. Her ancestors came from Flanders in Belgium. The exact date of Alice's birth is unknown

In the late 1200s (ca. 1285) Alice Kyteler married her first husband, William Outlaw. They had a child also named William.

**CIRCA 1280**  
1ST MARRIAGE

**1302**  
2ND MARRIAGE

Alice marries her second husband, Adam le Blund, after the death of her first husband.

Adam le Blund dies and Alice marries her third husband, Richard De Valle, a knight from Tipperary

**1309**  
3RD MARRIAGE

**1324**  
4TH MARRIAGE

After the death of her third husband Richard, Alice marries for the final time to John le Poer. Suspicions around the deaths of her husbands begin to rise.

Alice's stepchildren accuse her of witchcraft. The accusations included: asking demons for advice on witchcraft, making dark magic based potions and killing her four husbands.

**1324**  
WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATIONS

**1324**  
ALICE FLEES KILKENNY

Richard Ledrede accuses Alice and some of her associates of witchcraft. Alice escapes from Kilkenny. Her servant, Petronilla, is tortured and confesses to witchcraft.

Petronilla is burned at the stake and Alice's ultimate fate remains unknown. She disappeared from historical records after fleeing Kilkenny.

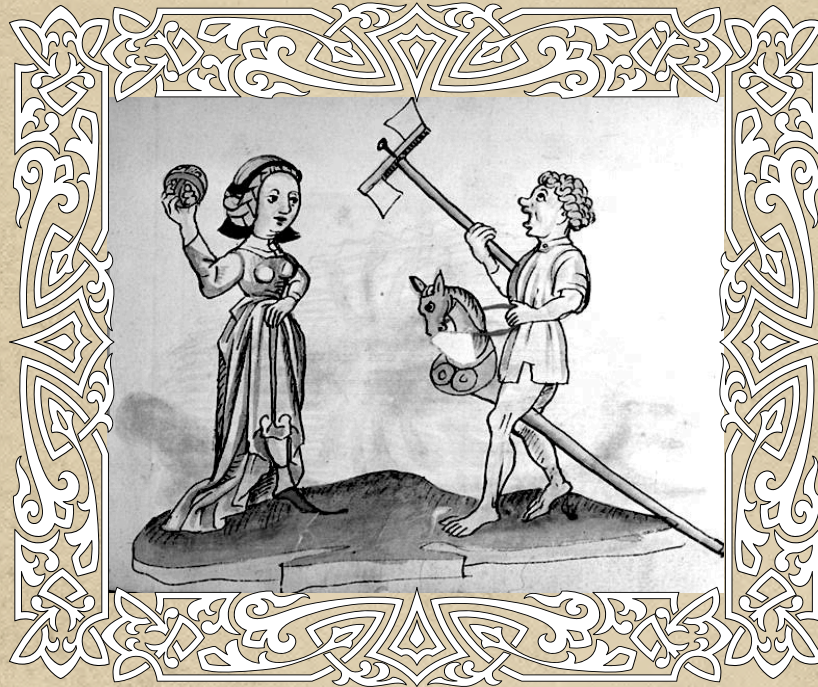
**1324**



\*CIRCA IS A LATIN WORD THAT HISTORIANS USE MEANING 'ABOUT' OR 'AROUND'



# Children in Medieval Ireland



**Life in medieval times was difficult. There was little food, no sewers, and rubbish was thrown into the streets. If you were a child you would be taught all sorts of skills but this depended on whether you were a boy or a girl.**

**Girls were taught household skills like weaving and caring for animals. Boys were taught to use a kiln, chop wood, and herd animals.**

**These skills would help set you up for the future, as women were expected to take care of the house and men to work.**

**Medieval children played with toys such as dolls, marbles, sticks, rattles and spinning tops when they weren't helping around the house.**

**However, children only had a 50% survival rate beyond the age of one! They began to contribute to family life around age twelve.**



# **The life of children in medieval times looked something like this:**

**They helped out at home with tasks suited to their age and development.**

**They helped care for animals and their younger siblings.**

**They helped with cooking.**

**They assisted in the family business.**

**They learned crafts through apprenticeship and the guild system.**

**Wealthy children often had tutors and were taught lots of different subjects.**

**Some children attended schools run by the church to learn to read and write Latin.**

**Young peasant children had duties like collecting eggs and gathering fruit.**





# Medieval children played a variety of games, including:

Wooden swords and other warlike toys

Toy soldiers

Riding sticks

Spinning tops

Games of tug-of-war

Leapfrog

Archery

Ball games

Stick games

Board games like backgammon and chess

Hide & Seek

See Saw

Swimming

Tag

Gambling with dice

Blind man's bluff

Checkers

Horse races

Playing cards





# Compare your life to Medieval times

What games do you like to play?

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What jobs and tasks do you do to help out at home?

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What's your favourite food?

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What do you think your favourite game from Medieval times would be?

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# Medieval Irish Foods

Listed below are some foods that would have been commonly found in the medieval Irish diet, organized roughly by food group

## Grains

Barley/oats mixed into stew

Bread (barley/oat)

Porridge and gruel (barley/oat)

Wheat scones (among the wealthy)



## Meat and Fish

Beef

Chicken and other fowl

Clams

Crab

Goat

Hare

Hedgehog

Oysters

Pork

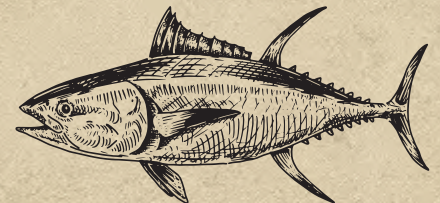
Salmon

Shrimp

Trout

Tuna

Venison



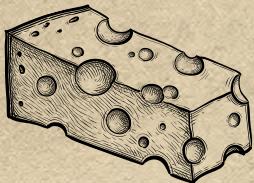
## Dairy, Eggs, and Oils

Eggs: duck, goose, chicken

Butter

Cheeses

Milk



## Fruit, Vegetables, and Legumes

Apples

Beans

Blackberries

Carrots

Celery

Cherries

Chives

Hazelnuts

Leeks

Onions

Peas

Strawberries

Watercress





It's the year 1324 and you are working as a chef in the kitchen of Kytelers' Inn.

Dame Alice Kyteler is having a banquet with some of the most noble people in

Kilkenny and has asked you to prepare a 3-course meal for her and her guests.

Using the list of medieval Irish foods, create a starter, main course and dessert using 5 ingredients for each course and draw a picture of your dish in the frames below.

## Starter

Name of your dish:

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Ingredients:

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## Main Course

Name of your dish:

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Ingredients:

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## Dessert

Name of your dish:

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Ingredients:

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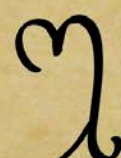
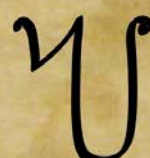
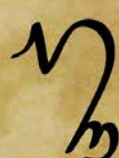
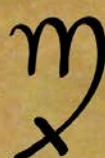
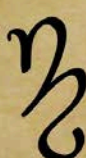

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# The Witches' Alphabet

The Witches' Alphabet, also known as the Theban Alphabet, was used by witches to hide their magical spells from prying eyes.

 A	 B / C	 D	 E	 F	
 G	 H	 I / J	 K	 L	 M
 N	 O	 P	 Q	 R	 S
 T	 U / V / W	 X	 Y	 Z	 .



**Can you use the witches' alphabet to decode the answers to the quiz?**

### 1. Who was the first ever person to be accused of witchcraft in Ireland?

၈၂၆၇၇      ၇၇၈၈၉      ၉၉၀၁၂၃၄၅၆

**2. In what year did the witchcraft trial take place?**

ቅ ላ ሆ ጣ ቅ ጊ ጊ ሂ      ቅ ላ ጊ ሂ ቅ ጌ      ዋጣ ላ ጣ

### 3. What was the name of Dame Alice Kyeteler's lady in waiting?

ᄃᆞ ᄃᆡ ᄃᆢ ᄃᆣ ᄃᆤ ᄃᆥ ᄃᆦ ᄃᆧ ᄃᆨ

#### 4. What did Alice Kyteler's four husbands allegedly die of?

[illegible]



5. What was the name of the Chancellor of Ireland who defended Alice against the allegations of witchcraft?

ጣጢጣህግጣ

ጢጻጢሂሂጻ

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6. What was the name of the area in Kilkenny City where Alice once lived, now called St. Kieran Street?

ሂጢጻ

ሂሂሂግ

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7. What was the name of the Bishop of Ossory who accused Alice and Petronilla of Witchcraft?

ብህጾሃጢጢ

ሂግጣጣግጣ

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8. What was the name of Alice's son who was also accused of witchcraft?

ጻህሂሂህሂጢ

ጢጻጢሂሂጻ

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9. On what date in November was Petronilla burnt at the stake in 1324?

24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>

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10. What was the name of the Inn that Dame Alice owned, that is still open in Kilkenny today?

Black & White Inn 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

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Can you spell your own name in the box below  
using the Witches' Alphabet?





# Important Plants in Witchcraft



**roses**



**lavander**



**foxglove**



**hibiscus**



**sunflower**



**jasmine**



**passion flower**



**hollyhocks**



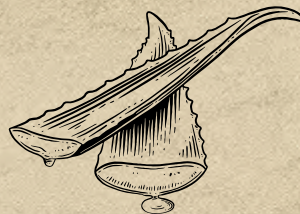
**rosemary**



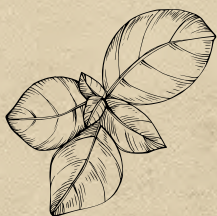
**mint**



**thyme**



**aloe**



**basil**



**ivy**



# Can you match the picture to the word?



**foxglove**



**rosemary**



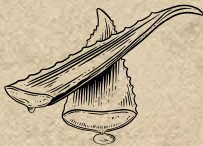
**basil**



**mint**



**thyme**



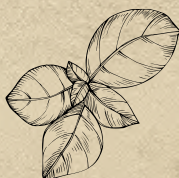
**aloe**



**ivy**



**sunflower**



**hollyhocks**



WANTED



ALICE KYTELER  
WITCHCRAFT  
£10,0000





Design your own wanted poster for Petronilla de Meath and William Outlaw. How do you imagine they looked?

# WANTED



PETRONILLA  
DE MEATH  
WITCHCRAFT

WILLIAM  
OUTLAW  
WITCHCRAFT

£10,0000



**Write a diary entry pretending to be  
Alice Kyteler planning her escape  
from Kilkenny**



# Kilkenny Medieval Times

Here ye! Here ye!

# BREAKING NEWS

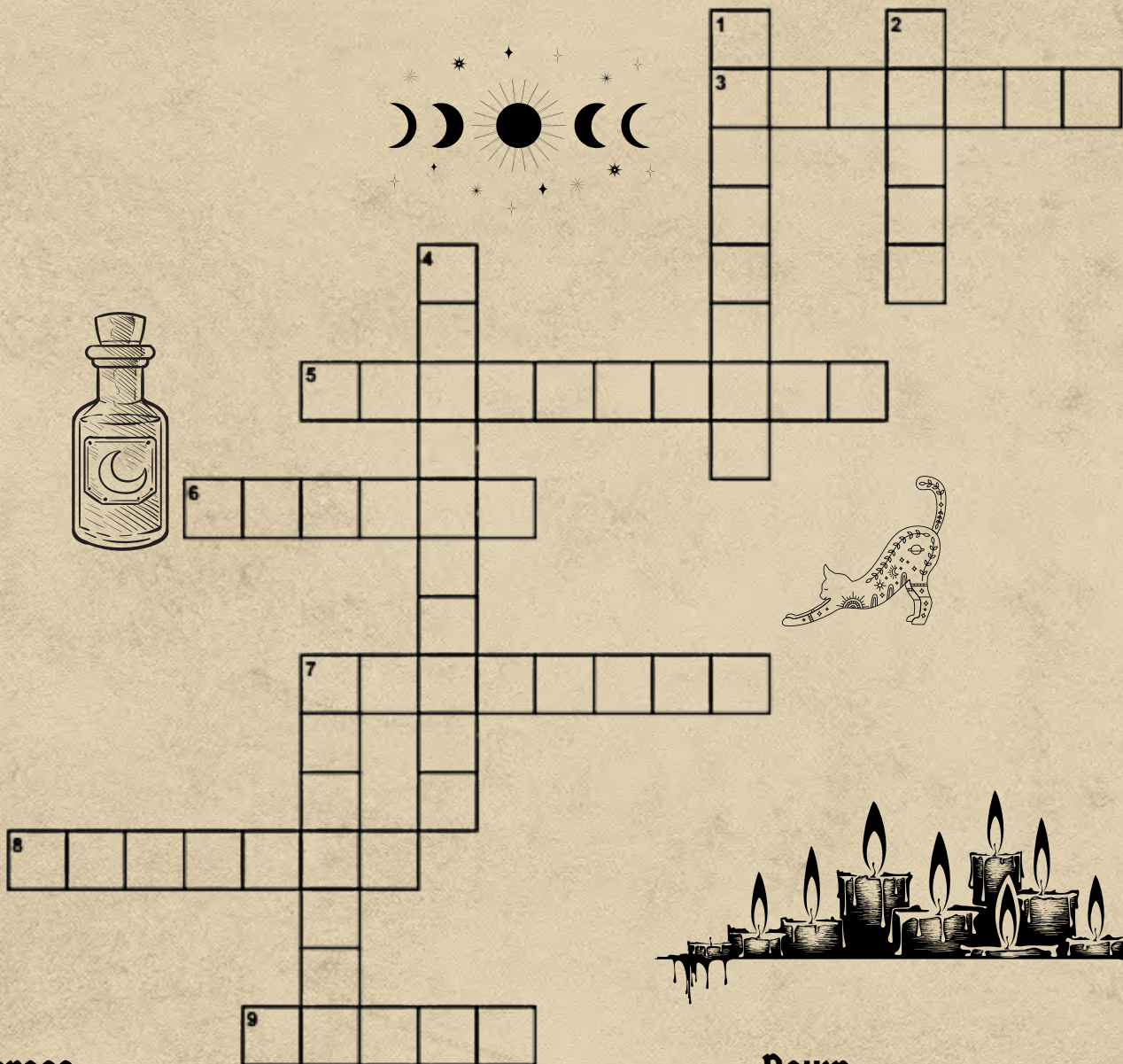
# THE BISHOP OF OSSORY HAS CANCELLED ALL RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES IN KILKENNY!

The bishop of Ossory has been imprisoned by one of Alice Kyteler's very powerful allies for accusing her of witchcraft. From his prison cell in Kilkenny Castle, he places Kilkenny under an interdict, which means there will be no masses, baptisms, funerals or weddings. The bishop knew that this would create mass fear and terror and people are travelling from all over Kilkenny to visit the Bishop in his prison cell, begging him for his blessing. In medieval times people believed that if you did not receive the blessings of the church, your soul would not go to heaven. This would have been very traumatic for the people at the time. You are a journalist in 1324. Write an article about this on the front cover of the Kilkenny Medieval Times.

[illegible]



# Toil and Trouble Crossword



## Across

- 3. Another word for fled
- 5. Type of magic Alice was thought to use
- 6. A magical brew
- 7. Where Alice is from
- 8. Being charged with a crime
- 9. A legal hearing

## Down

- 1. Middle Ages
- 2. A charm or a hex
- 4. Alice's servant
- 7. Alice's surname



# **Alice Escapes, Petronilla is Caught...**

**Write a short story or poem about Alice Kyteler's escape and what led to Petronilla being burned at the stake**

**Use the following facts to help you:**

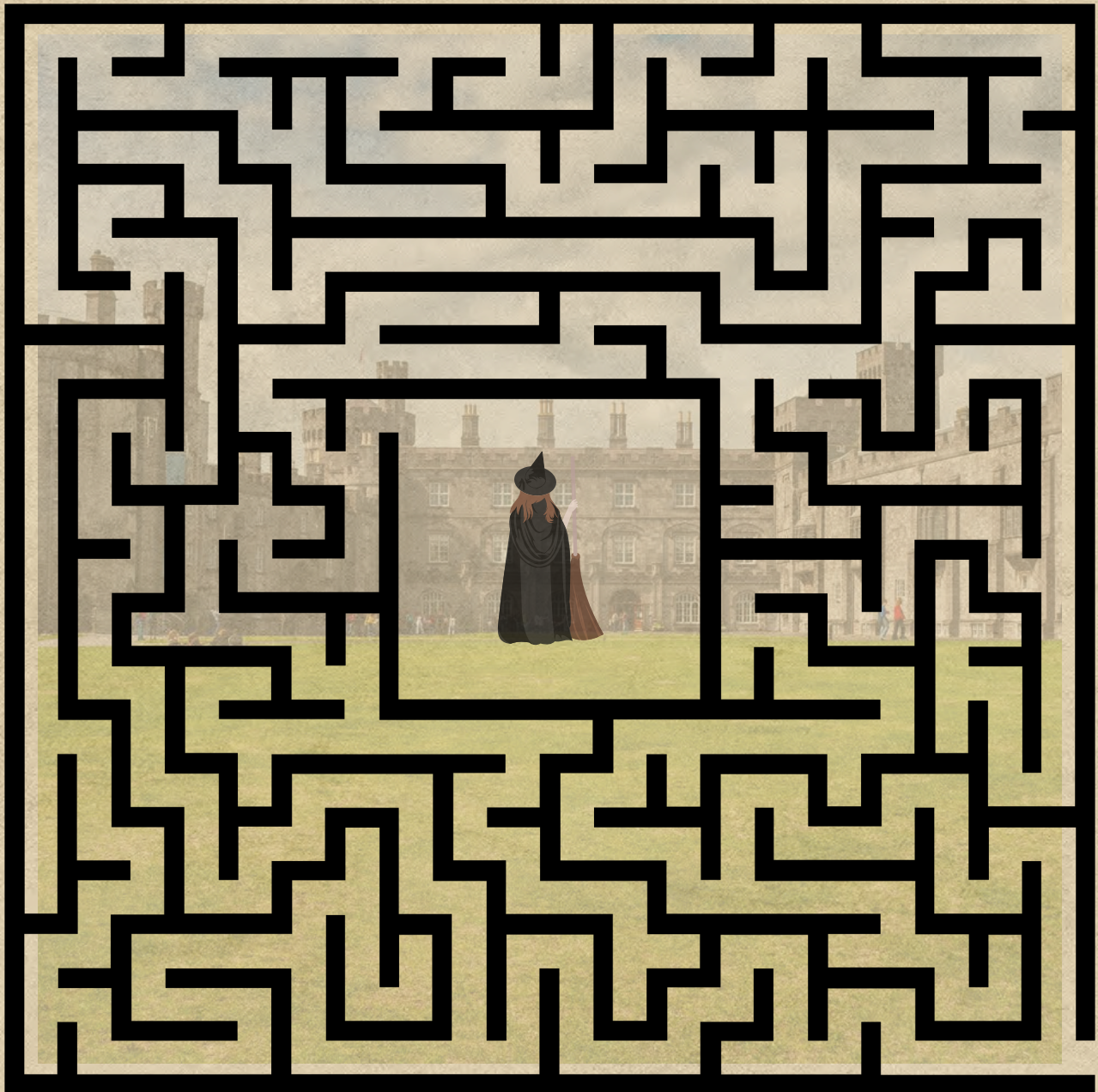
- This story is set in Medieval Kilkenny in the 1300s - it was a place of fear and unrest.
- Richard Ledrede was the Bishop of Ossory and accused Alice Kyteler and her associates of witchcraft.
- All the information you need is given to you in this booklet.
- Use your imagination!





# Alice Escapes From Kilkenny

Help find Alice find her way out of Kilkenny



Escape



# Witch Trials Wordsearch

Y	D	T	J	S	P	E	L	L	S	U	T	E	A	J	R	T	H	Y	L
Z	M	N	V	P	I	G	V	I	R	M	Y	N	B	P	F	X	S	D	M
E	S	S	W	K	M	W	O	S	V	P	E	T	R	O	N	I	L	L	A
D	I	O	A	D	I	I	P	Q	N	A	U	M	Y	E	G	R	G	C	S
E	N	R	A	X	G	T	Q	Q	L	F	E	C	A	O	X	L	K	G	X
R	Q	C	W	L	R	C	B	V	V	D	R	K	L	R	F	B	I	T	E
D	K	E	Q	O	O	H	L	A	I	R	T	H	C	T	I	W	L	O	V
E	N	R	Y	U	K	C	U	E	H	X	K	K	P	T	Z	G	K	M	H
L	H	E	B	W	F	R	V	X	J	Y	R	P	G	X	Y	Z	E	I	O
P	Q	S	O	U	V	A	G	K	Q	J	L	L	Q	K	R	K	N	P	D
O	V	S	Z	R	L	F	O	C	O	X	T	T	E	K	O	S	N	C	Z
H	A	K	T	B	J	T	P	H	T	A	Q	I	U	T	I	I	Y	S	A
S	J	G	C	F	N	P	R	F	Z	E	T	R	C	M	R	W	C	Q	Y
I	T	R	K	V	O	H	H	X	O	O	G	O	A	Y	P	D	A	L	I
B	E	Y	I	I	M	P	H	I	R	N	W	X	K	O	S	K	S	I	W
A	Z	G	P	E	Z	A	I	T	Q	U	B	W	B	G	L	N	T	Z	P
C	Q	R	O	P	F	G	U	Q	P	D	H	B	N	Q	L	W	L	W	P
C	B	D	B	Z	X	R	A	L	I	C	E	K	Y	T	E	L	E	R	M
O	U	Q	K	H	E	R	B	S	X	Q	V	J	X	D	K	S	U	Y	L
F	V	O	U	J	L	Y	Y	M	C	A	E	R	Y	W	B	F	A	S	E

**ALICE KYTELER**

**WITCHCRAFT**

**PETRONILLA**

**SORCERESS**

**KELLS PRIORY**

**HERBS**

**KILKENNY CASTLE**

**SPELLS**

**BISHOP LEDREDE**

**MEDIEVAL**

**TORTURE**

**WITCH TRIAL**



# My Witches Spell

Ingredient #1



Ingredient #2



My spell is called:

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Ingredient #3



Ingredient #4



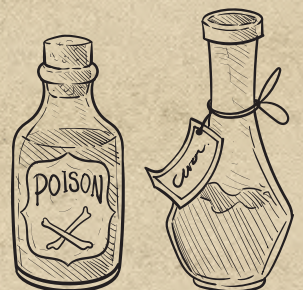
It is a spell for:

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Ingredient #5





# Find The Hidden Objects



3 x



3 x



3 x



3 x



3 x



3 x



3 x





# Witch Word Scramble









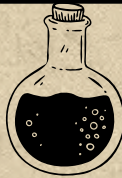
























All of the scrambled words below are witch vocabulary words.  
Can you put the letters in the right order to spell the words correctly?  
Careful! One of the 'words' are actually two words!

plosokebl	
wtiftccarh	
obmro	
auocrdnl	
hresb	
oiontp	
rroycse	



# What Comes Next?

Complete the patterns by filling in the next picture in each set



# Witch Wreath



## Materials Needed:

- Tissue paper in different colours - purple, orange, black, yellow, green
- Cut outs of witches' hat, legs, bats and wreath
- Glue
- Glitter

## Instructions:

- Cut out witches' hat, legs, bats and black wreath (you can use a paper plate for the wreath if you wish)
- Scrunch up the tissue paper into balls and glue all over wreath so that it is completely covered
- Decorate the witches' hat and legs with glitter using glue
- Glue the witches' hat, legs and bats to the wreath and use a ribbon to hang it up on your door











Join the dots then colour in



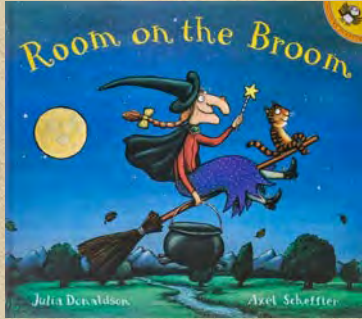


# Colour in the Cauldron



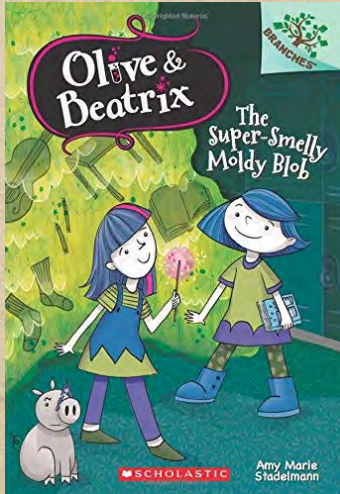


# Witchy book recommendations



## Room on the broom by Julia Donaldson

A classic Halloween story of friendship! While flying on her broom, the wind blows away the witch's hat, bow, and wand! Fortunately, three animals find her things and ask for a ride on her broom. Will there be room? What will happen when a hungry dragon shows up?



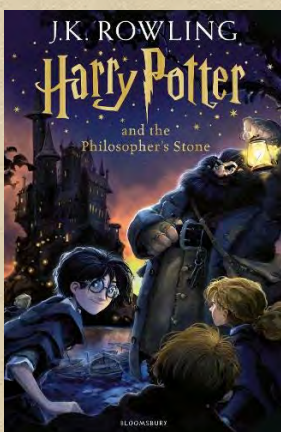
## Olive & Beatrix: The super-smelly moldy blob by Amy Marie Stadelmann

Beatrix wins the Science Fair every year because she uses magic to cheat! But Olive really wants to win this year, and she has the best science project EVER. Then something bad happens! The sisters' projects turn into a super-stinky, super-moldy blob monster! The blob is ALIVE and growing bigger and smellier by the minute! Can Olive and Beatrix stop the blob before it swallows up the school?



## It's raining bats & frogs by Rebecca Colby

Oh, dear. It's raining on the Witch Parade. Delia wants to help! She changes the rain to cats and dogs. But that's too crazy so Delia tries again with hats and clogs instead. Oh, my. Then the witches fight over the shoes so Delia tries bats and frogs instead. Disaster after silly disaster make the actual rain look better and better. After all, a little rain never hurt anyone.



## Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone by J.K Rowling

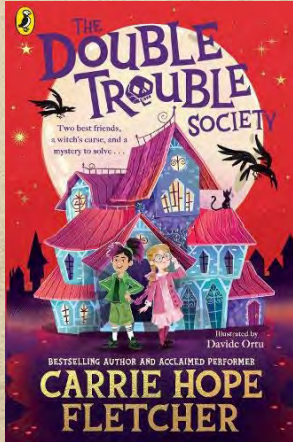
On the eve of Harry's eleventh birthday the letters start arriving; letters written in emerald green ink on yellowing parchment with an unmistakable letter H on purple wax seals. Because Harry Potter is no ordinary boy, he is the boy who lived, the wizard whose name everyone in the magical world knows and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin and life for Harry Potter will never be the same again.





## **Kiki's delivery service by Eiko Kadono**

Half-witch Kiki never runs from a challenge. So when her thirteenth birthday arrives, she's eager to follow a witch's tradition: choose a new town to call home for one year. Brimming with confidence, Kiki flies to the seaside village of Koriko and expects that her powers will easily bring happiness to the townspeople.



## **The double trouble society by Carrie Hope Fletcher**

When children start disappearing from boring Crowood Park and the adults don't seem to notice, Ivy and Maple trace the cause to the creepy Hokum House and its eerie new owner



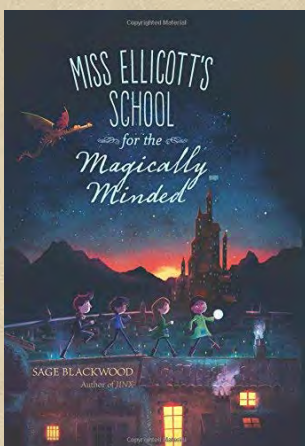
## **Eva Evergreen semi-magical witch by Julie Abe**

Eva Evergreen is determined to earn the rank of Novice Witch before her thirteenth birthday. If she doesn't, she'll lose her magic forever. For most young witches and wizards, it's a simple enough test:  
One: Help your town, do good all around.

Two: Live there for one moon, don't leave too soon.

Three: Fly home by broomstick, the easiest of tricks.

The only problem? Eva only has a pinch of magic



## **Miss Ellicott's School for the magically minded by Sage Blackwood**

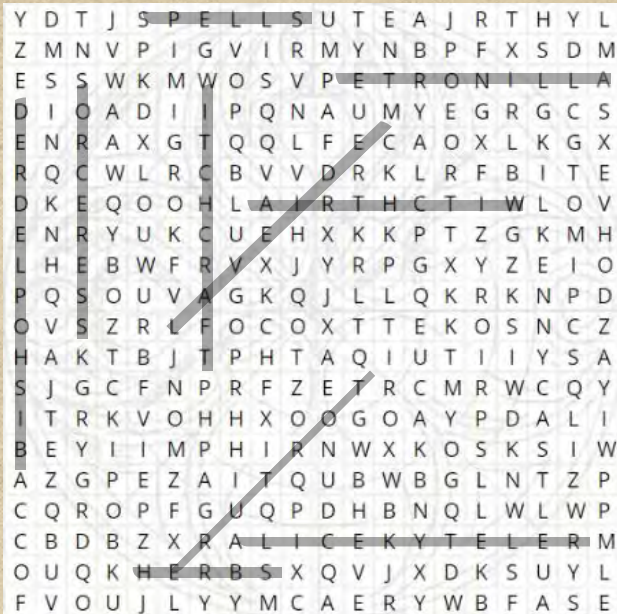
Chantel would much rather focus on her magic than on curtsying, which is why she often finds herself in trouble at Miss Ellicott's School for Magical Maidens. But when Miss Ellicott mysteriously disappears along with all the other sorceresses in the city, Chantel's behavior becomes the least of her problems. Without any magic protecting the city, it is up to Chantel and her friends to save the Kingdom.



# Answer Sheet

## Wordsearch

### Answers



## Crossword

### Answers

1. Medieval
2. Magic
3. Escaped
4. Petronilla
5. Witchcraft
6. Potion
7. Kilkenny (across)
7. Kyteler (down)
8. Accused
9. Trial

## What comes next

### answers



## Word Scramble

### Answers

1. Spell book
2. Witchcraft
3. Broom
4. Cauldron
5. herbs
6. Potion
7. Sorcery

## Witches Alphabet

### Answers

1. Dame Alice Kyteler
2. Thirteen twenty four
3. Petronella
4. Poisoning
5. Bishop Ledrede
6. Low Lane
7. Rodger Outlaw
8. William Outlaw
9. The Third
10. Kytelers Inn



# Acknowledgements

**Kilkenny County Council Library Service**

**Local Studies and Library Headquarters Team:**

**Johanna Brennan, Alicia Dunphy, Colette O' Halloran,  
Bernie Ryan, Laura Tyrrell & Rachel West**

**With special thanks to Cait Scott, our summer student who  
helped in the design of this booklet**

**Cover Page Illustration: Cartoon Saloon**

**This project was funded by Kilkenny County Council**



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