

BLACK CAT PAINTING

Objective: Students will learn the history of spooky cat superstition, and make a spooky cat painting.

Topics & Key Words for Discussion:

Superstition: irrational fear of what is unknown or mysterious.

Materials: watercolor paper, watercolor paint, paint brushes, cups of water, black marker or crayon. Option to use yellow paper and scissors/ glue for the moon/stars and cat eyes.

Opening Activity: Ask students if they know what superstition means, and to describe some superstitious fears they've heard about. Please do this delicately, as some students will be genuinely fearful, and others will not want to talk about anything 'spooky' they may believe is outside of their religious practice. This activity is about black cats- many cultures have had and shared beliefs about cats having magical powers or evil intent. Pirates of the 18th century believed that a black cat would bring different kinds of luck. If a black cat walks towards someone, that person will have bad luck. If a black cat walks away from someone, then that person will have good luck. Learn more: https://youtu.be/DmNR_rX1cvY



Core Activity: Distribute watercolor paper and water color paint with brushes and water. Have students paint the background with water color- it should be a blend of colors students associate with the night sky. When their painting has dried, students can draw in their black cat. Option to distribute yellow paper and scissors and instruct students to cut out the shapes of eyes and a crescent moon, with or without stars.

Reflection: Why are cats so misunderstood? As students help clean up the space, ask them for their opinion on the behavior of cats? Are they evil? Are they good, and too good to tell anyone?