

Horror Character Introduce Me

Character Card activity on frightening creatures.



apparition
archfiend
banshee
bogey
bugbear
cacodemon
chimera
demon
evil spirit
fairy
familiar
genie
ghost
ghoul

ghoulie
goblin
hobgoblin
hag
harpy
hellion
imp
incubus
monster
nightmare
nixie
ogre
phantom flying
Dutchman

poltergeist
revenant
sanguisuge
shadow
spectre
sprite
succubus
vampire
wraith
zombie

Some general suggestions for using these cards.

There are more than enough cards so that every one in the class can have a different card. Children or pairs of children could read their card first and then explain/present their item (we encourage them to do this while not looking at their card and only referring to it if they get stuck. See our summary sheet on [transformations](#)) to another child or pair (you may want to select pairs/groups in advance); then the pairs could join another pair and share information. In fours they could then think up one or two questions to ask the class later. There may be children in the class who hold information about these questions and can provide answers. Questions without answers could be stored up/written down for discussion later on.

Another possibility is to pair the cards in advance and for pairs of children to present their information to the rest of the class.

The idea here is to encourage the sharing of information, the finding of links, formulating questions and building confidence in talking with enough volume and confidence to larger and larger groups. We would strongly discourage moving to writing too soon. Sometime it is a better idea to introduce a matched writing task (producing some new cards for example) after a decent interval (a week - 10 days?) to allow time for reflection.

This session could be followed by opportunities to do further research on the items or to research new items. Pairs or groups could then feed back what they have discovered to the rest of the class orally with pictures and diagrams or finally as a poster.

We would like to hear of any other ways in which you have used the cards. During lockdown the cards have provided good opportunities for families to talk and work together.

This activity was put together speedily to be available at the LATE/BFI conference on 3rd December 2022.

It is still in development. We welcome suggestions for improvements, corrections and additions.

Teacher instructions

This is a collection of character cards/biographies about the things that go bump in the night, which we invite you modify and add to. We will produce a smaller card version with the same information when we have tried this out. I'm hoping that they can be used for children to present information to each other. We have provided pupil instructions below. Everyone could be given a card so they can become an expert on one horror character. They should be encouraged to read their card, study the picture carefully and then present their information to one other child in their own words. We encourage children to put their card face down while presenting. If they get stuck they can check the card. The second child then presents their information in the same way. Now each child (let's call them child A and child B) has found out about two frightening characters.

We then suggest that the pair of children meet up with another pair who have also shared information. Then child A presents child B's information to C and D again trying to become card independent. It works quite well when children can actually 'become' the character and present in role: e.g.

Hello, I'm a harpy. I come from Greek mythology. I have the head of a woman and the body of an eagle.

The group of four might then present their information another four or to the whole class. This could progress to a class assembly presentation. You might want to organise the items of information in thematic fours. I suggest you put coloured dots on groups of cards to help sort them quickly into groups.

The purpose of the activity is to ensure that children have talked about the topic several times and in several different ways and to different children well before they have to produce any writing. Our ever constant aim is to delay the rush to written work, so if you are keen/anxious to record progress why not use audio or video rather than a writing exercise.

However, if your children would like to research a character and write a better character card we would be delighted. We would also welcome cards on new and different characters.

Horror Character Introduce Me Instructions

You have a card with some information about a frightening character.

Read the card carefully twice and try to remember some of the details.

Find someone else in your group with the same coloured dot on their card.

Take turns to introduce your character to the other person. Try to do it without reading the card, but you can take a quick look if you get stuck.

Now find another pair with the same colour dot and take turns to introduce your partner to the other pair. The other pair should do the same. Now you know about four frightening characters!

Apparition

I appear for a short time often the same place at the same time. I look a bit hazy shapeless and a little transparent. I may be the memory of something that happened here in the past; something that was not good.



Archfiend

I am a devil; the chief devil. I have been called Beelzebub, Old Nick, Satan, Lucifer or Mephistopheles.

I take many different shapes but a serpent is the most well known. I have many other demons and devils to do my work.



Banshee

I am Irish, female and not very tall. I am attached to a family and scream, shriek and lament when a death is going to take place.

I have long streaming hair and a grey cloak over a green dress



Boggart

I am an invisible spirit. I stay in one particular place and look after it: a house, a marsh, a wood, a mountain for instance. If I am disturbed I make trouble. I throw things, I break things, I shake things. I try to frighten you away.

Bogeyman or Bugbear



In the desolate depths of a perilous place the bogeyman lurks, with a snarl on his face. Never dare, never dare to approach his dark lair for he's waiting . . . just waiting . . . to get you. He skulks in the shadows, relentless and wild in his search for a tender, delectable child.

Chimera



I am made of different animal parts. I am usually shown as a lion, with the head of a goat protruding from my back, and a tail that might end with a snake's head. I have fiery breath.

Cacodemon



I have a single green eye placed above a large wickedly grinning mouth, showing a series of nasty teeth. I float in through the window. All I want to do is eat flesh, flesh, flesh...

Demon



I am a demon. I am a spirit that can live inside you. If I am a good demon I can help you to be a genius. If I am an evil one I torment you with itches, tiredness, forgetfulness, sleeplessness and make you irritable. If you have a demon you are said to be possessed.

Djinn/Genie



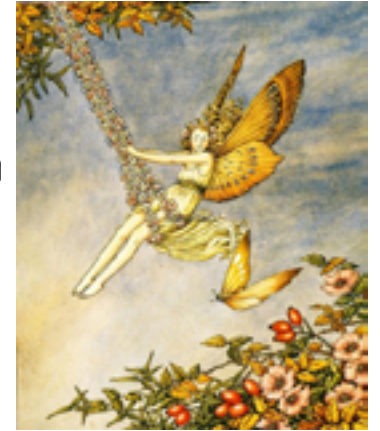
I am usually invisible but my body is very transparent and flexible. I like the form of a snake, but I also appear as a scorpion, a lizard or sometimes as a human. I have magical powers and if you control me, I will do magic for you.

Familiar



I am just like you. I am your other half, your double, your alter ego. I may look different from you and can look like an animal but I protect you. Everyone has a familiar but many of you do not realise it.

Fairy



I usually have a small human form and magical powers. We have different names in different countries and cultures. We can be called brownie, dwarf, elf, fay, gnome, goblin, gremlin, hobgoblin, kobold, leprechaun, pixie (also pixy), puck, or sprite.

Ghost



I am the soul of a dead person. Sometimes I am just a faint, wispy, translucent creature but sometimes I look solid and alive. I am restless and maybe there is something I want to tell or show about the past.

Ghoul

I am human looking but very large and ugly. I live in a graveyard because I like to eat human flesh. People who are fond of death and decay are often called ghouls after me.



Gremlin

I am small, mischievous, and have big ears. When a machine like a car or aeroplane goes wrong, I get blamed. I was accused of damaging the engine or cutting the wires of planes during the second World War.



Hag

I am old and not very good looking. I could be a witch and could put a spell on you. I may be able to tell you what your future will be. Listen very carefully and you may find out about what is going to happen to you.



Harpy

I am half a human and half a bird. I am a spirit of the wind. I can bring storms and I can carry people away to the underworld. You often find me near tombs.



Hellion

I am small and very speedy. I play lots of tricks and can squirt water at you. I have many different names: devil, imp, mischief, monkey, rascalion, rascal, rogue, scamp, urchin.



Hobgoblin

I am a small magical creature that lives in your house. I guard it from evil. You should look after me well. We have many different names. Here are a few: brownies, dwarves, duendes, gnomes, imps, leprechauns, pukwudgies or kobolds. We can be mischievous but we also protect your house from far worse creatures.



Imp

I am a small, boney and have big ears and small horns. I can make mischief but I am not a big danger to you. One of us was behaving badly in Lincoln cathedral. He tripped up the bishop! An angel turned him into stone. He is still there.



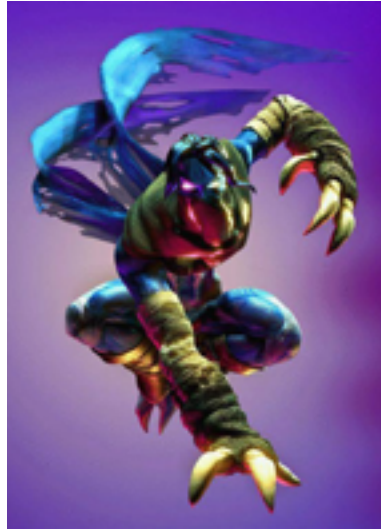
Incubus

I am a demon in the shape of a good looking man, but I can have the claws of a bird and the tail of a serpent. I will seduce a woman and put her under a spell.



Monster

There are many different kinds of us. Some of us are very big some very small. We are all rather ugly and usually very fierce and unfriendly. We sometimes guard treasure. We can live in caves or even under the sea.



Nightmare

I am a spirit that comes at night. I sit on your chest so that you cannot breathe easily. I give you terrible dreams.

There are many ways to stop me. For example you can put a bundle of hay in your bed and go to sleep in another room.



Nixie

I look half like a human and half like a fish. I live in rivers. If I see a human swimming I try to lure them with my singing away from the shore so that they drown. Some of us look like friendly horses, but if you climb on you will get stuck and we will take you under the water.



Ogre

I am much bigger and stronger than a human. My head is much bigger and I have hair on my body. I am always hungry and very fond of human flesh. I live in lonely places and roam around looking for food.



Phantom Flying Dutchman

I am the spectre/phantom of a ship. Many years ago I was wrecked near the Cape of Good Hope. Now I must sail the seas forever. When other ships sail past the Cape, I appear in full sail getting closer and closer. Then I suddenly disappear leaving just a cloud.



Phantom

I am a comic book hero. I live in New York City. I fight against all kinds of evil. I have existed for four hundred years. I have a powerful skull ring. There are many comic book stories and films about my adventures.



Poltergeist

I am a spirit and I am invisible. However, I can get inside objects and make them move. I can pinch, bite, hit and trip people up. I can move objects such as furniture and cutlery. I knock on doors. I can make a bad smell.



Revenant

I am someone who died but my corpse has been revived. My job is to haunt the living. I usually do this because the living person has done something wrong and must be punished.



Sanguisage

I am a small slimy worm. My other name is 'leech'. I live on blood and nothing else. Once I have found a source of blood, I bite and hang on. I can grow very big as I fill with blood.



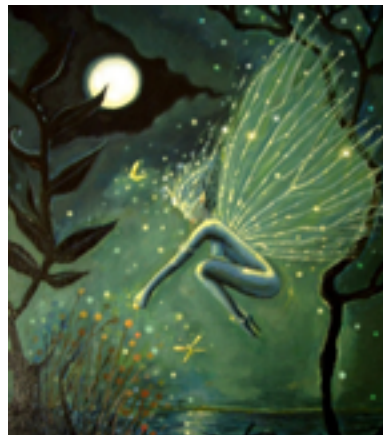
Shadow

I am a shadow and follow you closely and do exactly what you do. You can see me when the sun or a light shines but I am always there even in the dark. Sometimes an evil spirit takes me over and tries to make you do what the shadow does.



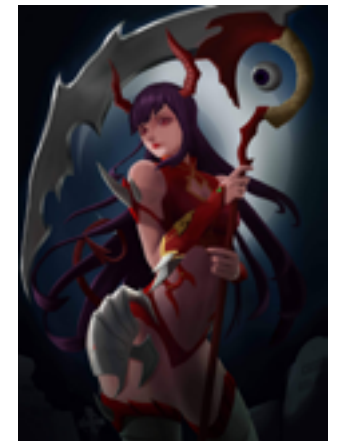
Sprite

I am very small. I have magic powers. I take human form but I also have wings. I usually stay out of the way of humans. I am like an elf or pixie. I can do mischief like turning milk sour or even stopping cows from giving milk. I like to receive presents.



Succubus

I am a demon in the shape of a beautiful woman, but I can have the claws of a bird and the tail of a serpent. I seduce a man and put him under a spell.



Vampire

I am undead - neither dead nor alive. I can take the form of a bird or animal. I stay in the place where I first died. I am always looking for human blood. I sleep during the day and at night I suck the blood from sleeping humans.



Wraith

I am a misty apparition. I look like someone you may know or who is well known to many people. I appear when this person is going to die in the near future. I am a portent or future warning of their death. Maybe there is some thing they or you can do to prevent the death from happening.



Zombie

I am a spirit that has been called up by voodoo magic. I find a dead body and make a home there. Then I can control the body and make it do what I want.



We need at least one other card to complete this four! We invite you to send us more characters and better descriptions too!