State educational institution “Minsk secondary school#40”

English language project

Theme: “Mythical Creatures of Great Britain”

Section: English Studies

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Minsk, 2020

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Applications

In the culture of each country a special place is given to mythology. Myths - this is what our ancestors believed in, and that which is inextricably linked with the consciousness of the people themselves. English mythology is very bright and amazing. Of course, in childhood a lot of us read fairy tales with the participation of magical creatures of Britain: elves, gnomes, giants. It was the vivid images of these creatures that made the history of the country so attractive and mysterious. Before starting work, I conducted a survey in my class, in which 12 people took part. The results are shown in the table.

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| --- | --- |
| Question No. | Answers |
| 1. Have you read fairy tales in which there are mythical creatures? | "Yes" -11 people  "No" -1 person |
| 2. What English mythical creatures can you name? | "I do not know" - 7 people,  5 people indicated the following creatures: gnomes, elves, brownies, witches, leprechauns |
| 3. Do you know who the giants are? | "Yes" -12 people |
| 4. Do you know who pixies are? | "No" -8 people  "Yes" - 4 people (these are little fairies) |
| 5. Have you heard of such mythical creatures as Banshees, Brownies? | "No" - 12 people |
| 6. What do you know about dobby? | 9 people replied that this creature was from a Harry Potter movie;  3 people said they did not know anything about dobby |

After analyzing the answers given by my classmates, I concluded that they heard about some mythical creatures from English mythology, but they still have no idea about most creatures. In other words, my classmates know little about the culture of the country of the language being studied. That is what I outlined as the problem of my project.

Of course, it is impossible to enumerate and describe in detail all the creatures known in English mythology in one work, so I selected several little-known, but, in my opinion, interesting creatures and gave a brief description of them.

Project goal: to talk about little-known mythical creatures of Great Britain.

Project Objectives:

1. To study the literature on the selected topic;

2. Conduct a survey among classmates in order to find out what mythical creatures of Great Britain they know;

3. Describe some little-known mythical creatures of Great Britain;

4. Present the project at school.

The practical result of the project, I suppose its presentation at school. As a theoretical result, I suggest an increase in interest in the study of the subject “English”.

Chapter I. Who are the fairies?

In Celtic mythology and mythologies of European peoples, which have absorbed the cultural Celtic traditions, fairies are the common name for supernatural beings (fairies, elves, etc.). In a broad sense, the word "fairies" in West European folklore is usually understood to mean the whole variety of related mythological creatures, often radically different from each other in appearance and habits.

All fairies are divided into two main groups: the Good Court (favors people) and the Bad Court (hostile people). Also, fairies can be divided into several genera: heroic, vagrant, tamed and lonely.

Wandering fairies are perhaps the most numerous group (heroic fairies, by and large, also belong to wandering ones). They are very different in appearance and in character. Stray fairies include leprechauns, bunches, banshees, etc.

Lonely fairies are those who are vicious by nature and prefer loneliness to communication. Lonely fairies differ from stray ones in that they prefer red clothes, while stray ones wear green jackets.

Tamed fairies are those who broke away from their fellows.

All fairies are distinguished by an extremely beauty, but, however, by some ugliness: fairies can always be distinguished from a person by any bodily defect.

A characteristic feature of the life of the fairies is that, living next to people, they exist, as it were, in a parallel world, where time and space are different from earthly. Fairies lived somewhere in the depths of the forest, in a magic thicket. They spent time in entertainments and celebrations: they hunted, played music, danced, organized contests and competitions. Sometimes they were amusing themselves, showing themselves to people's eyes, watching their reaction. The fairies even showed their castles to some lucky ones either in order to amaze the imagination, or to impress, and then poison the unbelievers in their existence. They rarely interfered in human affairs because of laziness. Fairies helped or avenged only in cases when people themselves appeared in their way and interfered with idleness. But they loved to fight with each other and with people, especially in ancient times, when the Celts owned magical artifacts and were unusually strong. True, only evil fairies fought with people; they flew across the sky on their horses with eyes glowing with heat.

They simply dealt with the fairies: they either killed with arrows with poisoned tips, or drove them crazy with a touch. Since in our world they become real and have a physical body, they can be injured. In addition, they were afraid of iron and running water. But even the risk of losing a part of the body or even life did not diminish their desire to participate in wars. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the afterlife of fairies is no worse than the one where they live during their lifetime.

Chapter II Mythical Creatures of Great Britain

*Banshees* (Banshees, Banshees, Ba'awan Shea, White Shea) - in Irish folklore and among the inhabitants of mountainous Scotland, a special kind of fairies. In different parts of Ireland they are called differently. The common and ubiquitous name is earl. bean si, consisting of bean - woman, and si - Shi, which together translates as a woman from the Sides, from the other world.

The author of the theosophical work Demonology and Witchcraft, Sir Walter Scott, believed that the Banshees were not so much a creature that had an appearance, but an ominous mortal howl that filled the night with horror in the expanses of Ireland and in the highlands of Scotland. People represent banshees as a woman with long flowing black hair, in spacious robes, with eyes swollen from tears or in the guise of a vile and ugly old woman with matted gray hair. A banshee can be a pale-skinned beauty in a long shroud, and sometimes she is in the form of an early dead innocent virgin - a relative of the family. Banshees are also described as women dressed in white (sometimes green or black), with beautiful long hair, which they comb with a silver comb. However, this is not always a romantic image of a beauty. Most banshees are old and wilted, but those who have died young still retain their former beauty. The moaning hair is wild and untidy. Her dress is usually tattered rags. Her face is a mask of pain and torment, but hatred and the fire of rage burns brightly in her eyes. Still, very often in the banshee's appearance, signs of a real monster are visible: either they will find membranes between her fingers, then fangs, or saggy breasts. They appear as floating luminescent phantoms of their former self. At night, their image glows brightly, but is transparent in the sunlight.

One of the central aspects of the banshee legends and traditions is the idea that the banshee is the patron spirit of the family that she announces death, that is, there is a hereditary relationship between them - it can also be the progenitor of the family. According to legend, not all Irish have banshees. In oral and literary sources, families in which the Banshees proclaim death are referred to as “O” and “Poppy” families, that is, it is believed that the Banshees accompany true Irish families. However, the list of surnames of such families is much wider, as it also includes families originating from the Vikings and Anglo-Normans, that is, families who settled in Ireland before the 17th century.

Banshees are intangible and invulnerable to weapons. In addition, moaning spirits are highly resistant to magic. They are completely immune to charm, sleep, and immobilization spells. Holy water poured on them causes them severe damage. Banshees can sense the presence of living things within five miles.

The banshees hate all living things and therefore build their homes in the desert countryside or ancient ruins, and remain there forever. The land surrounding the lair of the groaning spirit is strewn with the bones of animals that heard the banshee's cry. Banshees devastate any place where they live: flowers and thin plants wither and die, and trees become twisted and painful, while more hardy plants, thistles, and others flourish.

The banshee's treasure varies greatly and often reflects what they loved in life. In most cases, this is a supply of gold and precious stones. Other banshees, especially those who often visit their former homes, show better tastes, preserving great works of art and sculpture or powerful magical artifacts.

Banshees hunt at night, taking on the image of beauties and seducing belated travelers. Especially they are attracted by those who themselves recently played the role of a game beater - such an attractive smell of blood comes from such people. Banshees only feed on the blood of young men. Before drinking blood, they dance with victims, hypnotizing them. They can take part in the conversation, but give themselves out as a strong incomprehensible accent. Occasionally, hungry banshees attack women, and then their victims turn into the same monsters.

*Brownie*s They are tiny, shaggy men, with wrinkled brown skin (hence their name is brownie, brown), about 25 inches (0.64 m) in height. If brownies dress, they like to wear small torn suits of green, blue, or brown tones. They do not live in homes or in people's yards, but on their own, somewhere close to human habitation. They do not appear during the day, and at night people sometimes saw the brownies silently, like an ugly shadow, sneaking from tree to tree, trying not to notice it. But they never harm anyone. After all, all brownies, if they are not offended, not only do not harm people, but even try in every way to help those who need help. Brownies live in holes.

In order for the brownie to help, he needs to be called for dinner, for this they put a cup of milk over the threshold, and it’s better to pour the thickest, most fat milk, add a spoonful of cream to it. “He was a tiny, hairy freak with a long beard, red eyelids, wide flat feet — just like toad paws — and long, long arms that reached the ground, even if he was standing straight. "

In every castle, in every house, he lived his brownie and in the kitchen, next to the fire, for him, there was a place that was always left unoccupied. Brownies like to live in the houses they care about. Brownies go out at night to finish a little housework, to look at cattle. All brownies are waiting, in return for a bowl of cream and honey pie. But there is a rule, never leave clothes for brownies and do not leave too much food. The Brownies then begin to think that this house is no longer needed and leave.

Brownies do not like to be noticed, and therefore do their work only at night, in exchange for small gifts or food. He does not like other gifts and may even be offended and leave. A harmful brownie could sometimes bully around the house, throw furniture, litter, sprinkle groats.

Brownie had a special affection for dairy products, and often interfered with milkmaids who did their job. He tried to charm them in order to get a delicious food, but only scared his appearance. Brownies could only be seen by those who had clairvoyance, or if the brownies themselves wanted it.

*Dobby.* Scottish folklore is replete with references to dobby. Interestingly, in her books on Harry Potter, Joan Rowling calls the house elf that is attached to the house and inherited. Who are the dobbies? In short, these are not very smart distant relatives of the brownies. So, many in the old days preferred to hide their treasures in the ground, and the brownies trusted the protection of treasures. But what if the brownie was not nearby? Call the dobbies, especially since they will never refuse. However, it is not known whether they will cope with the task. After all, to gape and miss the thief they cost nothing. In addition, being extremely trusting creatures, they may well give all your treasures to the first comer. But you can safely entrust them with some kind of household chores. But get ready for the eggs to be broken, the milk spilled, etc.

*Pixie* (English Pixie) - small creatures from English mythology, are considered a kind of elves or fairies. There are several options for who are pixies. The most famous of them say that pixies are the spirits of children who died before baptism, or that they are the spirits of Celtic druids who did not go to heaven or hell.

Common to all pixies is their behavior - from harmless pranks to deadly leprosy. The most favorite pixie fun is to drive travelers off the road in the most sophisticated ways. They also love to steal horses, especially foals. If there are suspicions that something strange is happening around and that is pixy's pranks, the best way to drive them away is to show an iron cross or, if there’s none, then remove and turn your jacket inside out and put it back on. However, the pixies are quite friendly: they look after abandoned graves, often help around the house, doing the same work as the brownies. True, the work of pixies quickly bothers, and they drop it at the first opportunity.

Pixies are creatures dirty, loving pranks creatures. Pixies live mainly near swamps, since there are rather gloomy; they can also settle in caves (again, depending on the species). The pixies take the fight for caves along with imps and cave trolls - imps and cave trolls are the main enemies of pixies. In addition, the pixies steal horses, especially foals and, to exhaustion, drive them at night through the fields. After that, circles resembling witch rings remain in the fields.

If a person steps into such a circle, he will fall into the Magic Land and remain in it until the end of his days. (However, if you step in a circle with one foot, nothing bad will happen: a person will see the dancing fairies, but they will not be able to damage him or to get him to him).

Pixie's height can be anything from a span to a normal human. A typical pixie has red hair and a snub nose; he walks in a green jacket, and on his head wears a huge peaked cap that covers his narrowed, sun-scared eyes. They say that during the day the pixies spread in hedgehogs and roam among mortals in this form.

It’s no coincidence that they say about the stray: The pixies are beguiled. They also throw pieces of sod on the road - a person who stepped on such a piece, as if falling into an unknown country, seems to be unfamiliar to him all around, even though he was a stone's throw from his house (in Irish folklore, such pieces have their own name - sworn sod).

*A bug* has several names a bug, a bugaboo, a bugle bu, a bugbear. According to legend, a bug is a “childish” monster, even in our time, English women scare them with their children.

The appearance of bugs can be different. Usually these creatures have the appearance of shaggy monsters with matted ragged hair. Some compare them in appearance with brown bears. Many English children believe that bugs can enter rooms using open chimneys. However, despite their rather frightening appearance, these creatures are completely non-aggressive and practically harmless, since they have neither sharp teeth nor long claws. They can scare only in one way - making a terrible ugly face, spreading their paws and raising their hair on the scruff of their neck. Some bugs have quite frightening proper names - Jenny Green Teeth, Skinny, Tom Look-in-Click. Each of them looks different and performs certain duties: for example, a bug named Lazy Lawrence protects orchards from boys-tomboys.

In Scottish folklore, there are fairies who are even more vicious than the Bad Court. They are called sluaghs. This is the army of the dead. They flock through the sky in packs and fight without knowing the rest. Their screams and clang of weapons are carried far away in the cold winter nights. Sluagh blood stains rocks and boulders. They kill cats, dogs and livestock, ruthlessly hitting animals with darts. They call people under their banners, and they obey, because they simply do not have the strength to disobey.

*Selkies and roans* are mythical creatures from Scottish and Irish folklore. Lovely seal people. Kind and peaceful creatures of extraordinary beauty. The descendants of people driven into the sea for their misconduct can go out of the water once every nine nights, discard the seal skin and appear as girls and boys.

*Roans.* In Scottish mythology, there are fairies who live in water and from time to time go to land. These are the roans. In the sea, they swim under the guise of seals, and when they go to land, they discard the seal from themselves. They live in underground palaces made of pearl and pearl. Roans are the most good-natured and timid of all fairies. There is a beautiful fairy tale about how the hunter met the Roans. Once a certain hunter tried to kill a male seal with a knife, but only wounded him and, in addition, dropped the knife into the sea. In the evening, there was a knock at his door and a stranger stood on the threshold, holding a horse for an occasion. He said that he was sent by a skins merchant to make a deal - if the hunter obtains a certain amount of seal skins, he will be well paid. The hunter agreed, and they mounted a horse. Soon the horse caught up with a rock sticking out of the sea. Then a stranger grabbed the hunter and jumped with him into the sea. They sank to the bottom and were surrounded by seals. The hunter, who also turned into a seal, was handed a knife and asked: “Is this yours?” The hunter recognized his knife in it. Then his guide said: “You hurt my father and only you can heal him.” The hunter did exactly what he was asked for and the wound was healed before his eyes. After that, the oath was taken from the hunter that he would stop killing seals and released home. And on the threshold of his house, he found a bag of gold.

*Selkie*. In the folklore of the inhabitants of the Orkney Islands near Scotland, there are sea fairies of the village, relatives of the Scottish Roans. This seal people are kind creatures with brown eyes. Seal skins allow them to live in the sea, but from time to time they must emerge from the water in order to swallow air. According to some sources, villages are the descendants of people driven into the sea for their crimes. Therefore, they are so drawn to land. When the villages go ashore, they lose their skins and turn into indescribable beauties. If you steal the discarded skin, the villages will remain on land, since without the skin you cannot survive under water. If she gets married, then her children will have small horns and in addition they will acquire healing properties.

Conclusion

Mythology has a special place in the culture of each country. English mythology is very bright and amazing. Many mythical creatures in our time become the heroes of fairy tales and cartoons. For example, we learned about dobbies through the Harry Potter movie, although many people think that dobbie is the name of a house elf. In fact, dobby is a mythical creature. Leprechauns also often become cartoon characters. Pixies are little fairies from the Winx cartoon, and there are also villages - sea fairies. I think that if you look at other English cartoons and films, you can learn about other mythical creatures.

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