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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Folktale of La Befana

Legend has it that long ago in Italy, there lived an old woman named La Befana. She was very kind and friendly. La Befana had a child, whom she loved with all of her heart. Her child tragically died. La Befana was so heartbroken. She also became a bit mad.



One day, three wise men stopped into La Befana's house on their way to Bethlehem. They needed shelter and a meal for the night. The widow was such a nice hostess that they invited her to come with them to find the baby, Jesus. La Befana declined their offer but felt sad after they left. She packed up some toys that belonged to her own child and set out after them.



La Befana found baby Jesus and presented

Ever since, On January 6th, La Befana visits all of the homes of children in Italy. She leaves presents for children in their stockings. Now, children beware. If you are not sleeping and happen to see La Befana, you will receive a thump on her broomstick. La Befana does not want to be seen.

LET'S READ!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DAY 1

DAY 2



DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

NEXT

READ
THE LEGEND OF
OLD BEFANA
BY
TOMIE DEPAOLA



MENTOR TEXTS

The Legend of Old Befana



Officemate

Name: _____ Date: _____

Christmas in Italy

Christmas celebrations in Italy last several weeks. Celebrations begin in early December and continue through the beginning of January. The entire month of December is festive, with decorations and Christmas markets everywhere.

December 6th is St. Nicholas Day. In Italian, Saint Nicholas is called San Nicola. Children write letters to St. Nicholas to ask for gifts. Children also sing Christmas carols and recite poems. Children who have behaved good get fruits, nuts, and sweets from St. Nicholas. Naughty children get a sweet that looks like coal.



Saint Nicholas

A jolly old boy full of humour and joy,
"May you find Father Christmas to be!"
May he only give ear to the voice of
good cheer
And whatever enhances your glee.



Christmas Greetings.

Father Christmas

Christmas Eve is on December 24th. This is a Catholic tradition. The day of Christmas Eve people fast. This means people do not eat. There is a midnight mass. Then, the festivities begin. Father Christmas, or Babbo Natale, brings presents to children on this night.

The day of the Epiphany is on January 6th. La Befana is an old lady who comes to houses to search for the Christ Child. Children hang their stockings and Befana leaves presents for children who are good. Children who are bad get lumps of black sugar sweets. People also celebrate with a Christmas cake called the panettone.

Merry Christmas, or
Buon Natale!



© Jule Babes



MERRY
AND
BRIGHT

LET'S READ!

TABLE OF
CONTENTS

DAY 1

DAY 2

READ
THE LEGEND OF
OLD BEFANA
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DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

NEXT



SAMSUNG



Name: _____ Date: _____

Compare & Contrast

Old Befana

La Befana

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled "Old Befana" and the right circle is labeled "La Befana". Both circles are filled with horizontal lines for writing. The overlapping area in the center is also filled with horizontal lines.





She packed up some toys that belonged to her own child and set out after them. La Befana found baby Jesus and presented them with her gifts. The little baby was so delighted that he gave La Befana a gift in return. Befana was to be the mother of every child in Italy.



Ever since, On January 6th, La Befana visits all of the homes of children in Italy. She leaves presents for children in their stockings. Now, children beware. If you are not sleeping and happen to spot La Befana, you will receive a thump from her broomstick. La Befana does not wish to be seen.

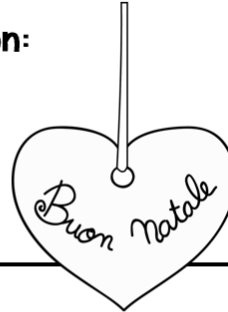
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Social Studies Extension: Christmas in Italy

Watch the video of Christmas in Italy [here](#).

Complete the reflection questions.



1. When does Befana come out?

2. Is the little girl expecting coal or sweets from La Befana?

3. What do you see at the Christmas market the girl visits?

4. What does the girl leave Santa Claus?

John Bishop



THE LEGEND OF OLD BEFANA: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DAY 1

DAY 2

1. Describe the main character of the story. Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

2. What three strange events occurred in the beginning?

3. Who is the Child that is being born? Why is this important?

4. What does Befana decide to do?

5. What miracle happens?

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DONE

COMPOSITION BOOK

100 sheets • 200 pages
9 1/4 IN X 7 1/2 IN / 24.7 cm X 19.0 cm
Quad Ruled



MERRY
AND
BRIGHT

DAY 5

TABLE OF
CONTENTS

DAY 1

DAY 2

Christmas in Italy



Reflection Questions

1. When does Befana come out?
2. Is the little girl expecting coal or sweets from La Befana?
3. What do you see at the Christmas market the girl visits?
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DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

NEXT

SAMSUNG



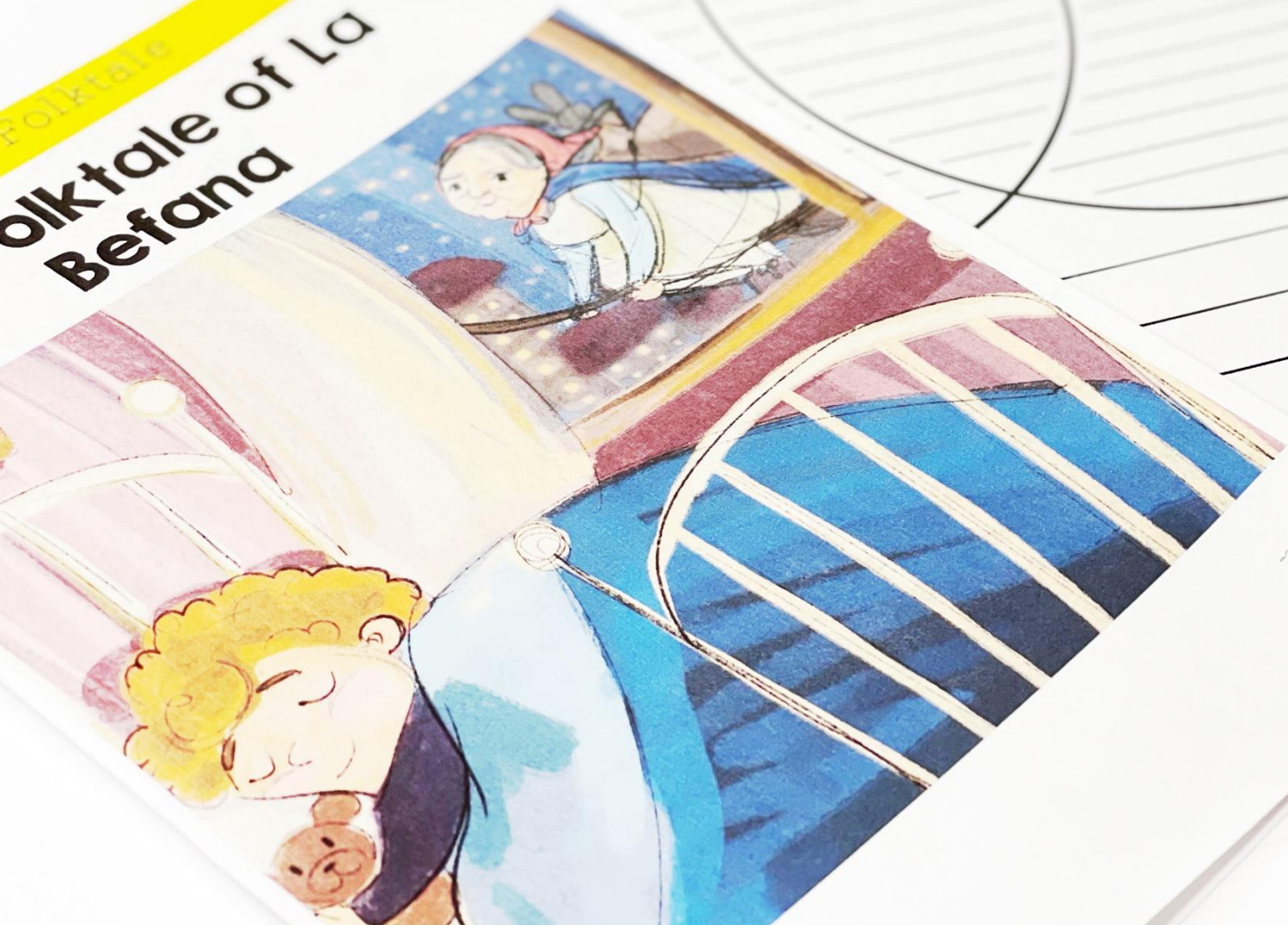
Date: _____

Old Befana

La Befana



Folklore
**Folktale of La
Befana**



Cartagena & Cartagena

the history

the history



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