

## Learning How Supporting Characters Develop the Plot & Contribute to the Sequence of Events



“Baba Yaga”

### Baba Yaga:

**Story Summary:** A young girl, Natasha, is sent into the forest by her evil stepmother to retrieve some string from her “aunt”, the horrible witch Baba Yaga. Once Natasha gets to Baba Yaga’s hut, she meets the servants of the witch, who all delight in her kindness. They develop a plan to help Natasha escape, but what is in store for them once she is gone? Do they all live happily ever after, or do they face the wrath of the witch? And what of Natasha when she returns home to deal with her stepmother?

### **Materials:**

- [Story Text](#)
- [Character & Decision Maps](#)
- [Play Script](#)

### **Common Core Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL: 4.3, 4.9, 5.3, 6.3

**Unit Essential Question:**

How has “having things in common” played an important role in your relationships with others?

**Objective:**

Describe how characters thoughts, words and actions develop the plot and explain how this contributes to the sequence of events. Analyze different character Points of View.

Compare/Contrast texts with the similar theme: Good vs. Evil.

**Anticipatory Set:** Have students research the witch Baba Yaga to understand the background of this historic Russian witch/tale. Have students draw a picture of the image in their mind of Baba Yaga based on their research.

**Activities:**

- Read Aloud: Students will read the Reader’s Theater Script: Baba Yaga. This Script has Five Scenes and Nine Characters: Students can be broken into small groups and given two parts each for the Reader’s Theater Round (20-25mins).
  - Have students select a character and Think, Pair Share: How did each their two characters (either the cat, dog, the gate, or Anastasia) assist in the development of the story through their actions and conflict resolution? What obstacles did Natasha face and how did she overcome them with the help of each of these characters?

- Character Map: Students can complete our Character Analysis & Decision Map for each of the characters of their choosing.

**Closing:**

- Rewrite one of the five scenes from a different characters' point of view: Natasha, Grigori, Inga, Baba Yaga or one of the supporting characters students analyzed in the activities section.
- **Extension:** Have students read another Fairy Tale surrounding a Witch, such as our tale [The Magic Ball](#) or [Hansel and Gretel](#), for example.
  - What plot details/events, are similar and how are they different? How is the theme of Good vs. Evil presented in each of the tales?