

Lesson Plan for
ElsBeth and the Call of the Castle Ghosties

Traditional learning through story adapted for today's student

Objectives:

Increase **Vocabulary** and **Language Arts**
Stimulate **Critical Thinking**
Observe and explore the **Natural Sciences**
Highlight aspects of **Geography**
Identify practical uses of **Math**
Introduce concepts of **Art**

Assignments:

Read **Chapter 1**

Where are the Scottish Highlands? How do these compare to other mountainous areas around the world?

What is sapwood? Where is it compared to the bark of a tree and the heartwood? What does the sap of a tree do?

What can alder trees be used for?

Why does a marsh eco-system change so frequently? Do you think it might have to do with the tide coming in and out?

Read **Chapter 2**

Where is the Wampanoag tribe located? Was this the tribe that gave the pilgrims turkey and corn at the first Thanksgiving in America?

How long a sailing trip is it from the elbow of Cape Cod to the island of Martha's Vineyard?

Read **Chapter 3**

Why do you think there is an herb drying cabinet at ElsBeth's house? What are herbs? What are they used for? Can you name some herbs you're familiar with?

What is the difference between a scone and a biscuit and a pancake? How are these different foods made with almost the same ingredients?

Why is there often less wind in the mornings? Do you think it has to do with the sun warming the temperature of the air as the day goes on?

Read **Chapter 4**

Boston cream pie and whoopie pies are both really cakes. Why do you think they are called pies?

What does an astrolabe look like? Explain how it works. Extra assignment: Make your own astrolabe. At night, take a sighting of a star and read the angle from the horizon to the star on your astrolabe. Imagine being a sailor in the old days figuring your ship's position based on the reading on the astrolabe.

What is a mime? Can you mime something? In other words act something out without words so people get the idea you are trying to get across? How do you think mime is used as an art form?

Elsbeth wanted to look for wild plants to use for medicines. Do you know of any plants that are used for medicines?

What is a Force 7 wind? How does it affect waves on the water?

Read **Chapter 5**

How do food preservatives work? Why do you think Sylvanas felt poisoned by the food preservatives and artificial ingredients in the food he ate?

Lisa Lee talks about the probability of the wind acting the way it did? What is your idea of probability and improbability? What do you think the probability is that the sun will continue to shine? Can you think of something that is very improbable? Why do you think it is improbable?

What is the Gulf Stream? Do you think Benjamin Franklin had a good idea to use the forces of nature to speed up mail going back and forth between England and the United States?

What kinds of energy do the oceans have? Is there a lot of force connected with the ocean tides? Do waves have energy? Have you ever felt the energy of the ocean? Do you know how people have harnessed this energy to make power?

Why are people working hard to find other ways to make energy than by burning oil and coal and gas? What are the negative effects of burning fossil fuels?

Do you think boredom and hunger are a bad combination?

Can resting your body help when you feel sick? Why? Can vitamin C help when you are sick? Why? Do you think that helping other people can make you feel better like Johnny's grandfather said?

Read **Chapter 6**

How do whales become endangered? What can be done to help bring whales and other animals back to healthy populations so they aren't endangered?

See if you can find the Gulf Stream and Northern Drift on a map.

What is a winch? Make your own simple winch using rope or string and test it out.

Look at Iceland and Greenland on a map? What do you notice about them?

Are some glaciers melting? How does this affect polar bears?

What is pollution? How does it get into the air and water and land and into the bodies of animals and people?

Can you give some examples throughout history where one person changed something major in the world?

Read **Chapter 7**

Describe how the ocean can meet the land in different ways. Draw pictures of a loch compared to a sandy beach of Cape Cod. Do you think the depth underwater has something to do with the height of the surrounding land?

Read **Chapter 8**

What causes swamp gas to be formed? Does swamp gas smell bad? Are some gases easily lit on fire?

Have you ever noticed that different places smell differently? What causes this?

Do you think the ocean temperatures in Scotland are different from the ocean temperatures at Cape Cod?

Read **Chapter 9**

What is hypothermia? How is it treated? Do you think putting Elsbeth between the dogs a good way of warming her up?

What are some interesting facts about Scottish Deerhounds?

What do you think it would be like without electricity and phones? What in your house runs on electricity?

How did the ancient Celtic people paint their faces blue? Did they use a dye made out of plants?

What is hibernation? Is it similar to hypothermia? How is it different?

Read **Chapter 10**

Do you think that learning based on memorization or learning based on understanding why things are the way they are is a better way to prepare for what you want to accomplish and do in your life? Why?

Read **Chapter 11**

What is a rogue?

Scotland was not always part of the United Kingdom. How does it happen that the same land can belong to different countries over time? Can you think of other lands that once belonged to England but don't now?

Why does the night sky look different in different places in the world?

Why do some animals turn white in winter? Are these animals only found where there is snow?

Read **Chapter 12, Chapter 13** and **Chapter 14**

How far away from each other are Ireland and Scotland? Do you think travel between the two was easy in ancient days?

How do you think a poultice might work to help heal a wound?

How could it happen that so many types of plants have gone extinct?

How many variety of apples have you tried? Are different types of apples good for eating and making pies?

How can it be that if one animal who is a predator is killed off that others can multiply too much and cause food shortages? Can you think of any examples?

Read **Chapter 15** and **Chapter 16**

Lisa Lee explains how Cape Cod and Scotland were formed differently. Can you think of other big changes in the surface of the Earth that have happened over long periods of time?

For example how are mountains formed? Are there land areas that were once covered by ocean?

Do small changes happen all the time because of the action of wind and water? Can these add up over time?

What are land rights? How is it decided who owns a piece of land?

Read **Chapter 17, Chapter 18, Chapter 19
Chapter 20, Chapter 21 and to the end**

What kind of plants grow in shrubland, which is also called scrubland? Why do some areas only grow small plants and others grow huge forests?

Are there some land areas like beaches and deserts where practically no plants grow? What do you think this has to do with sun and wind and rain and nutrients in the soil?

Why is oil found under the ground? How is it formed? Why is it considered so valuable?

Why do you think the price of energy influences the price of food? Do large farms use lots of equipment? Do you think a lot of food is transported long distances? Have you ever tried food from a far away place?

Do you think the sad music that Durst sings makes him feel better? Was his music happier at the end?

Is there anything you want to learn more about from reading this book?