

STEP THROUGH THE STORY

REWOVEN FAIRY TALES

THE WEAVER AND THE WOLF

The Language of Thread

Can you hide a message in plain sight?

The fairy tale was only the beginning.

Why This Challenge?

In the novel, cloth becomes memory, witness, and resistance. Patterns carry meanings that the powerful do not know how to read. This activity asks you to build a symbolic language of your own - not to imitate a real historical code, but to explore how pattern can preserve information.

1. Build Your Pattern Dictionary

Warning

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

Safe place

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

Someone missing

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

Help needed

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

Remember this

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

We are together

Invent a simple shape, stitch-like mark, border, or repeating pattern for this meaning.

2. Hide a Message

Choose a short message of 5-12 words. Translate its ideas into your pattern dictionary. You may use repeated marks, borders, spacing, direction, or combinations.

Plain-language message

Encoded version

Draw or describe your pattern message.

3. Test the Cloth

Give only your pattern dictionary and encoded message to someone else. Can they read it? Record what they understood and where your system failed.

What they decoded correctly

What confused them

What I would change

4. Memory in Material

Choose a textile, garment, blanket, quilt, uniform, scarf, or piece of fabric in your family or community. What can it tell you beyond its practical use?

The object

Whose hands touched it?

What story does it preserve?

5. Step Through the Story

- Learn the name of one person accused of witchcraft in Scotland and record what is known about their life.
- Find a local textile tradition and learn who made the cloth, who wore it, and what patterns meant.
- Look for a memorial that remembers people once reduced to accusations, numbers, or court records.
- Create one small pattern whose only purpose is to remember a name.

What power cannot read, memory may still carry.