

Reading Thematic Overview

'Horrid Henry - Mummies Curse' - Francesca Simon

Horrid Henry: Mummy's Curse is a humorous tale about the mischievous Henry as he competes with his perfect brother, Peter, and encounters a spooky mummy that turns their lives upside down.

English

Henry and the other characters each have distinct traits. Pupils could create fact files on the main characters, summarizing their personalities, quirks, and memorable moments from the story. This activity can build understanding of characterization and descriptive language.

Pupils could also write a fictional diary entry from the perspective of the mummy. They can imagine what the mummy "thinks" about Henry's behaviour or the events of the story, adding a humorous twist.

Art

Discuss ancient Egyptian symbols and hieroglyphics, emphasizing their importance as powerful symbols representing ideas, names, and stories. Have pupils design their own "power prints" inspired by hieroglyphs, imagining symbols that represent personal traits or powers.

Use the concept of tomb paintings to discuss how Egyptians depicted daily life, gods, and important scenes in a stylized way. Pupils can illustrate a scene from *Horrid Henry: Mummies Curse* as a "tomb painting," using simplified, bold lines and a limited colour palette reminiscent of ancient Egyptian art.

Geography

While the story does not directly mention rivers, it can inspire conversations about the Nile River, which was crucial to the Ancient Egyptians. They depended on it for transportation, agriculture, and trade.

Exploring mummies and their associated traditions can help us understand how the Nile shaped the lives, communities, and culture of those living along its banks.

Science

In the book, the concept of mummification, even if fictionalized, can lead to discussions about preservation. You can introduce how mummification requires removing moisture from the body, connecting it to how water changes from a liquid to a gas when it evaporates.

As Henry explores the idea of mummies, the class can discuss the distinction between living and non-living things, particularly how once-living organisms (like the mummified characters) are preserved but no longer alive.

Technology

pupils could investigate traditional materials (like clay beads, stones, and metals) used in Egyptian collars and compare them with modern craft supplies. They could then design their own versions, using paper, foil, or beads, learning about the cultural significance of colour and patterns in Egyptian jewellery.

After reading about Egyptian mummies and artifacts, pupils could investigate how the Egyptians made paper from papyrus. They can explore the layering and drying process, using strips of paper or other fibrous material to replicate the technique.

History

The story about mummies and curses allows us to explore how the Ancient Egyptians perceived life after death, the process of mummification, and the significance of preparing the deceased for the next life. It can also lead to discussions about pharaohs, who were regarded as gods by the people, and the grand ceremonies and treasures they received upon their passing.

