



Middle Ages

(Target Audience: 5-8, 9-12)

Choose as many stories and activities as you think you will have time for. Below are some suggestions of things you can do.

There are a wide variety of stories that you might want to use: Read-aloud, Drawing, Fold & Cut and Participation stories on this theme. And Poetry is always fun too!

Stories to read aloud: There are many good read-aloud books on this theme. Below are only some of them. Check your library for other favourites.

The Tough Princess by Martin Waddell

Gawain and the Green Knight by Mark Shannon

Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady by Selina Hastings

“The Princess Who Could Not Cry” in *Thirty-three Multicultural Tales to Tell* by Pleasant DeSpain (use a real onion for focus object when telling)

Drawing stories: (Below are some examples)

“Covered with Riches” in *Stories to Draw* by Jerry J. Mallett
(drawing turns out to be a crown)

“The Princess and the Critter” in *Draw-And-Tell* by Richard Thompson
(drawing turns out to be a dragon)

Fold & cut stories: (Below is an example)

“Uncle Merlin’s Magic” in *Fold & Cut Stories* by Jerry J. Mallett
(story using Merlin, fold and cut turns out to be a castle)

Participation stories: (Below is an example)

“Snow Queen with the Cold, Cold Heart” from *Crazy Gibberish: and Other Story Hour Stretches* by Naomi Baltuck. Participation story using “sounds.” Use signs to hold up and encourage children to join in.

Poetry(Examples)

“Sir Bottomwide” in *Something Big Has Been Here: Poems* by Jack Prelutsky

“Award the Knight” in *A Bad Case of Giggles: Kids Favorite Funny Poems* by Bruce Lansky

Activities

Music: Look for soft Celtic/harp music to use as a backdrop when telling a story or exciting fanfare music to introduce a book or activity.

Storytelling in the round (another version of the 'whisper' stories):

One person whispers a sentence into another person's ear, who then whispers it into the next person's ear and so on. The last person who hears the sentence says it out loud. Final version will be very different and funny.

Crossing the Moat:

Knights of long ago were always laying siege to enemy castles. Challenge your volunteer "knights" to walk blindfolded on the drawbridge (masking tape line on floor) to cross the moat to the castle and earn a reward. Reward could be bookmark, colour/hidden picture sheet.

Award the Knight:

Children take turns blindfolded to "pin the medal on the chest of armour". The closest will win a prize/poster/book.

Shoeing the Knight's Horse:

Place a chair in front of a volunteer 'Squire' and place four detergent measuring cups by the chair. Blindfold a volunteer, who then has to try to put cups underneath all the legs of the chair. A time limit could be set. Award a prize.

Jester's Bag: A bag filled with riddles and jokes on pieces of paper that children can put their hand in to pick a riddle and then it read aloud to the group

Contest: Jester's Jar of Jellybeans. Children love contests. Have each child fill out a card to guess the number of jellybeans in a jar. Announce the winner at the end of the program and give them a prize. Then distribute the jellybeans to everyone!

Crafts

Colouring Sheets:

Find colouring sheets of castles, princesses, knights or dragons on the Internet, and in books.

Medieval crafts:

Make armour, crowns, shields and swords. Find instructions for these crafts on the Internet or in craft books.