

This set of fantasy characters will help to develop children's listening and speaking skills as they work together to use the stones to tell stories, both traditional tales and invented ones. Such small world adventures will enable children to explore story structure and use vocabulary learned from other stories. Suitable for use alongside Little Lands Enchanted World (YD1193) or combined with other story props. Set includes: dragon, dwarf, fairy, king, knight, ogre, queen and unicorn.



Key vocabulary

- Dragon, dwarf, fairy, king, knight, ogre, queen and unicorn

Language of story structure:

- Beginning
- Middle
- End
- Start
- Finish
- Then
- Next
- After
- Before



Activity ideas

- Create play dough versions of the characters by stamping them into the dough and cutting them out. Extend this by encouraging the children to make new characters with the dough.
- Create small world play story lands for the children to use the figures in, which will enable them to rehearse some of the story building words listed in the key vocabulary above
- Give us a clue: give children clues to a well-known story or fairy tale. Start with less obvious clues and make them progressively easier, inviting children, after each clue, to suggest what story is being described. Allow children to take the lead in this game too. The same game can be played using the characters, giving children clues as to which of the stones you are referring to.
- Read as many stories together as possible, discussing their characters and plots
- Include telling stories from memory using props, inventing, adapting and recounting narratives
- Make wooden spoon characters for use in storytelling, following instructions to create their characters
- Make available resources for the children to make their own lands, drawing on inspiration from stories and tales they know
- Invite parents/carers to visit to share stories and/or watch those prepared by the children.



- There are three themed sets of story stones: outer space (YD1145), under the sea (YD1146), and fairy tales (YD1147). Each set has character, prop and setting stones, so can be combined to tell many different stories.

Extending the learning

- Provide a range of props and costumes so that children can retell/tell fantastical stories, working cooperatively as they do so
- Making gingerbread men/women provides many measuring and making opportunities, plus some lovely edible goodies.

Fantasy worlds children's books

Journey by Aaron Becker

The Tunnel by Anthony Browne

The Highway Rat by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

There's a Dragon in Your Book by Tom Fletcher

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

The Egg by M P Robertson

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

The Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson

Stardust by Jeanne Willis and Briony May Smith

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham

