



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #44: A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time

The Main Event Tree House Mobiles

DURING THIS BOOK STUDY, EACH STUDENT WILL:	COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work in a cooperative group to identify the main idea and details.• Learn historical facts about the Victorian Era.• Summarize events in a sequential manner.• Analyze events to determine the main idea.• Use new vocabulary to complete an activity sheet.• Present findings along with group members to the class.	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text.• Draw inferences by referring to details in text.• Determine meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text.• Understand how illustrations contribute to the understanding of text.• Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details in the text. <p>Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write information to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly.• Pre-write with the help of a graphic organizer. <p>Speaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make an oral presentation that exhibits logical structure and is appropriate to the audience• Ask appropriate questions, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.• Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners, building on ideas. <p>Social Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read an historical account.• Discover significant people, places, events, and issues in history that influenced change.• Learn about communities that reflect the diversity of the world's peoples and cultures.

44-1S112

Paula Henson, 2007 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year Knoxville, Tennessee



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Organizing information:

Give your students' comprehension skills a boost as they organize each chapter of A Ghost Tale For Christmas Time into the main event and supporting details.

- Read A Ghost Tale For Christmas Time as a class or as an assignment outside of class.
- Assign each group of students a different chapter/chapters to focus on depending on class size. There will be many supporting details to choose from for each chapter. Assign one student to be the group leader.
- Allow the class time to work in cooperative groups as they complete The Main Event activity sheet. The leader of the group will record the ideas of the entire group on the graphic organizer.
- If a document camera is not available, make a transparency of each graphic organizer. There should be one transparency for each chapter.
- Allow each group to reflect and share ideas with the class by displaying their transparencies with an overhead projector or document camera.

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Making the Tree House Mobiles:

Allow each group to make a Magic Tree House mobile of their findings using the following materials:

- 1) A clean, empty, single serving (or larger) cardboard milk carton for each chapter of the book. (15)
- 2) Brown paper bag or brown construction paper – one sheet per mobile
- 3) Yarn, string, or jute
- 4) Craft sticks (3-5 per chapter)
- 5) Black Fine line Sharpies for each group

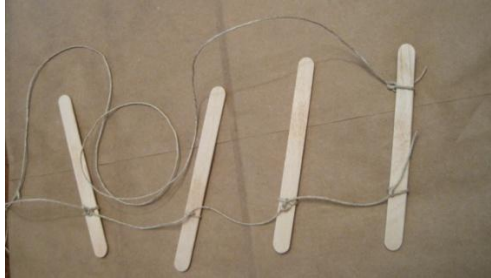


Procedure:

- Cut the top out of the milk carton. The bottom part turned upside down is the “tree house”.
- Have children cut “planks” from the brown paper bag or brown construction paper. The planks are 4” X 1” for the ½ gallon size carton. The roof will be varying sizes. Glue these to the outside of the milk carton to cover the “tree house”. (Planks on roof should extend and create an overhang to resemble the real Magic Tree House). Children can draw the grain of the wood and nail marks on the planks with a Sharpie. You should provide a picture of the Magic Tree House that is found in most of the books.



- Once construction of the tree house is complete, children should write the number of the chapter they are focusing on and the main idea of that chapter on a small piece of white paper or ½ of an index card and glue it to the tree house.
- Next, children should write one detail of the chapter on each craft stick. (These are the rungs on the ladder) The number of “rungs” may differ for each chapter but 3-5 will be typical.
- Then, use the yarn to tie the craft sticks together to create a ladder, leaving long sections on the end for tying.



- Punch two holes in the bottom of the tree house and thread the ends of the yarn through. Tie large knots to secure the yarn so that the details are visible and hang beneath the Tree house (Main Idea). Children may draw windows on their tree house, Jack and Annie, or other characters from the book. Allow them creative freedom in decorating their mobile. Display the mobiles by hanging them from the ceiling of the classroom.
- Punch a hole in the top of the tree house for hanging.



The Main Event

Name: _____

After reading a chapter of *A Ghost Tale at Christmas Time*, work with your group to complete the follow activity. Together, decide what the main idea is for the chapter you read. In your own words, write it in the box at the top of the chart. List three supporting details in the boxes below the main idea.

