

# Hocus Pocus Reading Spell-tacular!

## Materials Needed:

- Age-appropriate Hocus Pocus storybook, reader, or a teacher-created summary of the plot/characters
- Plain white paper
- Lined paper
- Pencils
- Crayons or colored markers
- Scissors (optional, for activity preparation)
- Small pieces of paper or index cards (optional, for activities)

## Lesson Procedure:

### 1. Magical Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)

Begin by tapping into the student's interest! Ask: "What do you like about Hocus Pocus? Who are your favorite characters? What's the silliest or spookiest part?" Look at pictures from the story or book cover together to spark excitement.

### 2. Story Time Spell (15-20 minutes)

Read the Hocus Pocus story or summary together. Pause frequently to discuss:

\* **Characters:** "How would you describe Winnifred? Is she bossy, smart, spooky? What words describe Sarah? Mary? Max? Dani? Binx?" Jot down some describing words (adjectives) together.

\* **Vocabulary:** Introduce fun theme words like 'potion,' 'spell,' 'cauldron,' 'immortal,' 'amulet.' Ask the student what they think these words mean based on the story context.

### 3. Activity: Character Cauldron (10 minutes)

Draw a large, simple cauldron on a piece of plain paper. Write the names of the main characters (Sanderson Sisters, Max, Dani, Binx, Allison) around the cauldron. Provide the descriptive words discussed earlier (or write them together) on small slips of paper or simply list them nearby. Have the student match the descriptive words to the characters by drawing lines from the word to the character name, or by writing the word next to the character it describes. They can color their cauldron afterwards!

### 4. Activity: Story Sequence Spell (10 minutes)

Choose 3-5 key events from the Hocus Pocus story (e.g., Max lights the black flame candle, The sisters chase the children, Binx helps them, They make a potion, The sun rises). Write short sentences or draw simple pictures representing these events on separate index cards or strips of paper. Mix them up. Ask the student to put the events back in the correct order they happened in the story. Read the sequence together once ordered.

### 5. Activity: Write Your Own Silly Spell! (10 minutes)

On lined paper, encourage the student to write their own fun, positive 'spell.' It could be a spell for having a good day, a spell for finding a lost toy, or just a silly rhyming spell! Challenge them to use at

least one of the new vocabulary words (potion, spell, cauldron). Example: "A happiness spell I cast on you, mix giggles in a cauldron, it's true! Add a dash of sunshine bright, make your whole day happy and light!" Focus on simple sentence structure and creativity.

## **6. Wrap-Up & Check-In (5 minutes)**

Review the character descriptions and the story sequence together. Ask the student to read their silly spell aloud. Discuss: "What was your favorite part of the lesson? What's one word you learned today? Can you describe one character using two words?" This helps informally assess understanding of the learning objectives.

### **Differentiation Note:**

Since this is a homeschool setting, easily adjust the complexity. For extra support, provide word banks for character traits or pre-draw pictures for sequencing. For a challenge, ask for more complex sentences in the spell, discuss character motivations ('Why did Winnifred want...?'), or compare/contrast two characters.