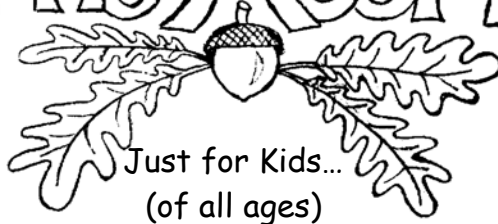




The Acorn



Just for Kids...
(of all ages)

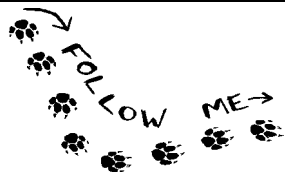
Write It in Runes!

Runes are symbols, usually drawn with simple straight lines, that were used by the Northern tribes as early as 200 BCE. Today's pagans use them in a variety of ways - as magickal signs in spellwork, to design sigils, as a divination tool,, for marking belongings or magickal tools, & for writing in the witch's journal or book of shadows.

One often-used runic alphabet is the Germanic or Elder Futhark, which contains twenty-four letters that correspond to the letters of our modern English alphabet as listed inside. Words written in runes are usually spelled phonetically (just the way they sound), although the rune puzzle included here uses standard modern spelling instead.

You can buy or make a set of runes, using these ones or designing symbols of your own. They can be stone, wood, clay, cardboard, sea-shells, buttons, beads...even lima beans or pumpkin

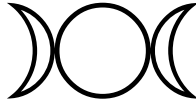
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seeds! (M&M's are not the best idea...they generally don't last very long!) Try doing this issue's rune puzzle, writing your name in runes...teach them to a friend as a code to use for writing secret messages!

If you want to learn more about runes, there are many helpful books you could read, by authors such as Lisa Peschel, Ralph Blum, Edred Thorsson, Donald Tyson, & P. M. H. Atwater.



Wrap the Beltane Maypole in the Colors of the Elements!

Does your tradition have special colors that they believe are connected with the four quarters, or elements? Ours does! We use the ones that many pagans see as sacred to the directions:

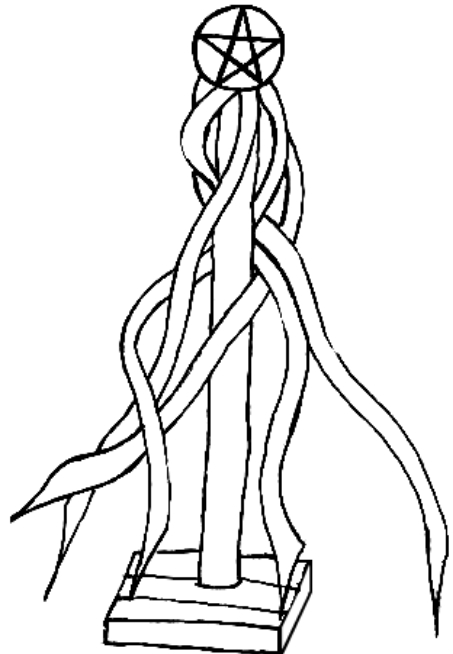
Green ~ North

Yellow ~ East

Red ~ South

Blue ~ West

Often Center (the "fifth direction") is shown as Purple or White. Your ribbons can match the elements, your favorite colors, or even be striped or polka-dotted!





Reading Suggestions from The Fox’s Den for CHiPs*
(Child <or Childlike> Highly Intelligent Pagans):



The Amazing World Around Us



- On the Day You Were Born – Debra Frasier (Harcourt Brace)
- A Walk to the Great Mystery – Virginia A. Stroud (Dial Books)
- Cider Apples – Sandy Nightingale (Harcourt Brace)
- The Dawn Fairy – Keith Faulkner (Scholastic)



Creatures Wild & Wonderful



- Stellaluna – Janell Cannon (Harcourt Brace)
- Verdi – Janell Cannon (Scholastic)
- The Legend of the Flying Hotdog – Celeste White (Green Tiger Press)
- Olde Missus Milliwhistle’s Book of Beneficial Beasties – Val & Ron Lindahn (Longstreet Press)



Deity & Folklore



- Twice Upon a Time – Irwin Shapiro (Charles Scribner’s Sons)
- Tatterhood and the Hobgoblins – Lauren Mills (Little, Brown, & Company)
- When the World Was Young – Margaret Mayo (Simon & Schuster)
- Wizard of Wind & Rock – Pamela F. Service (Macmillan)
- Young Guinevere – Robert D. San Souci (Picture Yearling)
- Young Merlin – Robert D. San Souci (Picture Yearling)
- What is God? – Etan Boritzer (Firefly Books)
- The Book of Goddesses – Kris Waldherr (Beyond Words)
- The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus – Aiki (HarperCollins)



Riotous Reading



- Greek Myths – Marcia Williams (Candlewick Press)
- King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table – Marcia Williams (Candlewick Press)

*Some of these are excellent bedtime or read-a-long stories...for children OR adults who appreciate beautiful artwork, engaging characters, & strongly-pagan-oriented themes!