



The Acorn



Just for Kids...
(of all ages)

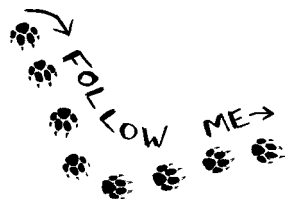
Happy Holidays...for All!!!

Fall & winter are here - & they bring with them some "oddly-shared" holidays for pagans & their non-pagan friends. While our traditions & ways of honoring them may differ from those of our friends or neighbors (or even our blood families), it can be a lot of fun to find the things we share & join together in celebrating. Although you may not realize it, our Yule and their Christmas are closely connected. While we do not follow the story of a birth in a manger, we can respect the fact that this is their special way of honoring their deity. They celebrate the birth of the "Son", & what do many of us celebrate? The beginning of the light half of the year as the Wheel turns...the return of the "Sun"!

Many traditions at this time of year have much in common - the warmth of a shared fire & songs sung in the spirit of love & peace are found in nearly every culture. Whether the homes are lit by a blazing Yule log, glowing Menorah candles, or a shimmering Christmas tree, we tend to draw in close to family during the cold winter months. Some of us find "family" in our own homes, at school, in a church, in a coven, on-line, or even in a good book. Wherever you are & however you choose to celebrate, we are truly glad that you count Spiral Oak as part of your family, & we wish you the brightest of blessings in this & all seasons!

In This Issue:

The Branch of Fate	2
Coloring Pages	4
Crafts by StarLite	6





The Branch of Fate

By The Mouse Queen

This is a good homemade game that both children and adults can participate in. It is especially fun on Samhain, played at midnight - outdoors if weather permits.

You need a large tree branch without its leaves - a dead one if possible. It should have several tiny branches on it so you may tie your fortunes all over it. To make the fortunes, use colored paper in red, green, orange, yellow, and brown. The colors must be light enough so that people can easily read the writing on them.

Make shapes of various kinds of leaves on the paper - they should be at least 3" x 2" (three inches across & two inches high). Cut them out. Using tarot cards for ideas, write down various fortunes on all of the leaves, making sure the last sentence is an uplifting, positive one. Put a pentagram on one. Tie the leaves onto the branch with pieces of yarn, string, or twist-ties, or tape them on securely.

The amount of leaves you will need depends on how many people are playing, plus a few extra added in for good luck. If just a small group is going to play, cut double the amount of leaves, at least - enough



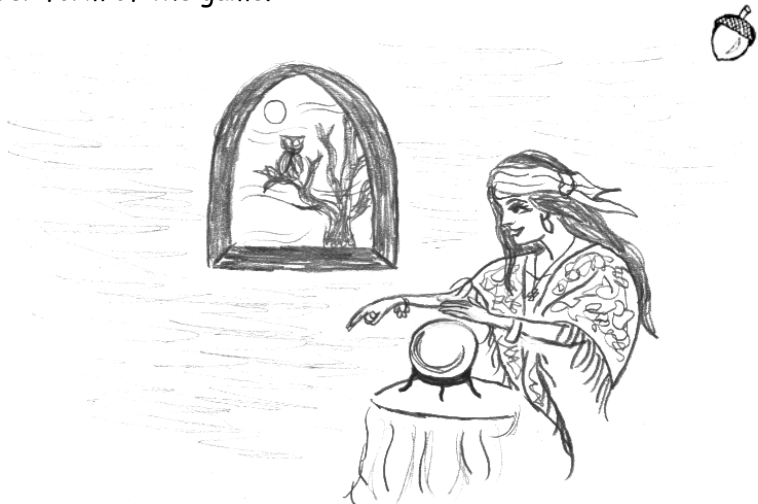
so that the last person picking has some to choose from. Also, you may wish to pick two leaves if only a few people are playing.

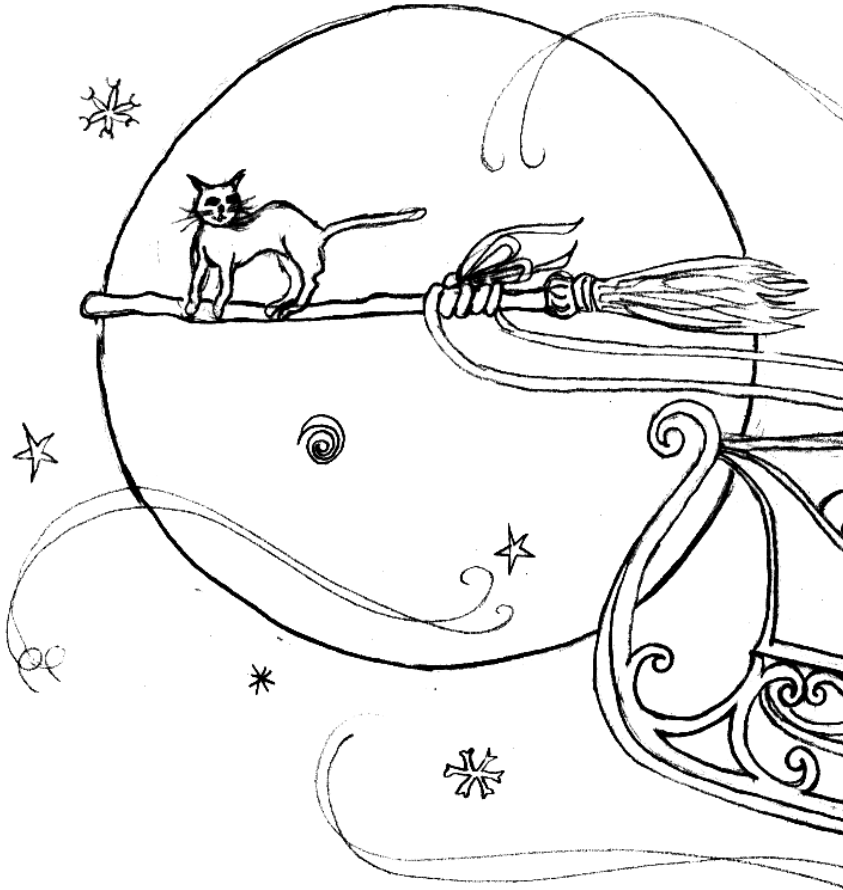
The game is played in the dark, with all the lights off. Players stand in a circle. One of them is the gypsy fortune-teller or witch, who carries the branch and a candle into the room or (if outdoors) into the circle. If a child plays the branch-carrier, s/he can carry a flashlight or battery-operated lantern. If an adult is the branch-carrier, a lantern or a candle in a glass container might be best for outdoor use.

The fortuneteller goes to each person with the light in one hand and the branch in the other. S/he tells each person to choose one leaf (or two) and not to look at it. When everyone has their fortunes, lights are turned on.

Each person takes a turn reading his or her fate. When all is done, the gypsy/witch will ask "Who here hold the fortune that bears the pentagram?" The one who answers "I do" receives a special prize. Another version of the game would be for the fortuneteller to be alone in a dark room, with a single candle lit and holding the branch. One at a time, each person enters the room, picks a fortune or two, and reads it aloud to the gypsy/witch. Whoever has the pentagram gets a special gift or receives a longer fortunetelling session later that evening or when convenient.

This game can get pretty spooky and interesting. The original version of it was played 96 years ago...and that may have been modified from an even older form of the game.





HAPPY SAMHAIN
AND A BLESSED



YULE!



Indoor Fun for the Cold Weather Holidays!

'Tis the season...for keeping warm! If it's not cold yet where you live, it probably soon will be. Winter is well on her way, & late fall is the perfect time to make craft items for Samhain decorating & Yule gift-giving.

One of our favorite Kitchen Witches (& a wonderful Mom, as well!) shares with us in this Acorn some of her wonderful ideas for making things that are great for the upcoming holidays - so collect some of those falling leaves, get out your glue & glitter, & prepare to make some magic!

Crafts by StarLite



SAMHAIN CREATIONS



Gourds, Gourds. Gourds!



Now is the time to scout for gourds - they can make great decorations to your altar and after drying they make good rattles. Pumpkin-looking gourds make cute little jack-o-lanterns for decorations for altar or table.



The Time for Divination....



A scrying mirror is a tool you can easily make.

Picture Frame

Black Paint & Brush

Glue

Trinkets (shells, gems, charms and etc.)

Take the glass out of the picture frame. Paint the glass black. When dry replace with painted side facing the back of the frame. Decorate the frame with whatever you like...a scrying mirror! Same thing could be done to a black bowl for a scrying bowl, to be used with water inside. (If you are painting the inside, use waterproof paint!)



Nature Book



This is good for little ones.

Sketchbook (paper without lines)

Crayons

Walking the park; children can find things to feel. They can do rubbings of them. Basically the item is placed under the sheet of paper, or in the



case of bigger items the paper placed on the item. Then they rub the crayon over the item. It makes a pattern print of this item. Examples of rubbings are leaves, tree bark, stones, and even the parking lot.



Leaf Window



- Fallen Leaves*
- Wax Paper*
- Iron & Glue*
- Black Construction Paper*

Remember as kids ironing leave between wax paper? Dawn's teacher had one better - black construction paper framing it, glued together to create a window. For an extra effect older children can make "tiffany glass" by cutting designs into the construction paper, or choose different colored paper. Use your imagination. Looks great in a sunny window!

YULE INSPIRATIONS



Easy Ornament Ideas



- Small Apples*
- Angels*
- Sun, Stars, and Moons*
- Small Boxes - covered with Yule paper*
- Acorns or Nuts - painted gold or silver*



Sparkling Ornaments



- Craft Glue*
- Glitter*
- Wax Paper*

On wax paper draw design with craft glue: spirals, small shapes for the season. Sprinkle on glitter. add string for hanging. Let air dry.



Cinnamon Ornaments



- 1 Cup of Regular Applesauce (not the chunky variety)*
- 1 1/2 Cups of Ground Cinnamon*
- 1/3 Cup of White Glue*
- Ribbon or String*

Mix first three items together. Chill for 30 minutes or more to stiffen



dough. Shape or roll and cut dough into shapes. When rolling out, don't roll thinner than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, because it may crumble and break. Use more cinnamon instead of flour to keep from sticking. Poke a hole at the top for a ribbon or string for hanging. Place the shapes on a cooling rack and dry for about two days. The color is a deep brown when the dough is wet, will lighten when dry.



Salt Dough Ornaments



4 Parts Flour & 1 Part Salt

Water (enough to make dough stiff)

Mix items together. Shape or roll and cut dough into shapes. When rolling out, do not roll thinner than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch - any thinner will break when dried. Paint can be added to dough and with glitter. Poke a hole at the top for a ribbon or string for hanging. Bake in a 225 degree oven for several hours and leave the ornaments in the oven to dry overnight. Can be painted/glittered after dry.



Gingerbread People



Cardboard gingerbread people can be fun to decorate. Just cut out cardboard people and let them color them! Paper bags can be cut into people as a garland. Color as wanted...

For Gingerbread Cookie Recipe, see page 20 of The Oak Leaf

Special Gifts from Little Ones:



Handprints



T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Towels

Fabric Paints

Pour some fabric paint on wax paper or in a small dish. Have your little one place hand in the fabric paint then onto item to be painted. A cool way to remember how tiny they were at Yule.



Magnets



Paint & Heavy Paper

Magnets & Glue

Do the same as above (hand prints) with regular paint and heavy paper. Add a magnet to back. Magnets can be picked up at craft stores.

Recipes drawn from *Family Fun*

