



In Between

Have you ever talked with someone who only sees things as "good" or "bad"? Or "hard" or "easy"? (Or are you maybe one of those people, yourself?) Some folks look at the world in what can be called *extremes* - that means they see most things they consider as only one thing or only the other...they have a hard time seeing the very large space between these two choices. While it is valuable to see what the extremes are (or what the extreme possibilities could be) in most situations, the truth usually lies somewhere in that area called "in between."

Many stories relate mysterious events taking place "in between" times and places, and many people prefer "between times" for their magical workings. What are "between times"? Dawn and dusk - sometimes called twilight, because they fall between night and day, dark and light. Between times can also be when you first awaken in the morning, or right before you fall asleep - between the worlds - when you are not quite sleeping and not quite awake, and because of this, your awareness of the world around you might be just a little different than usual.

What seasons are "in between"?

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Well, if the extremes of hot & cold happen in the Summer & Winter, then those between would be Spring and Fall. One of the things you might notice about these between (& the others mentioned) is that they are





times of change...so if you are thinking seriously about changing something in your life, starting that process as you move into a between time might be a perfect time - especially if your planned change is something that takes a while, like learning a new skill, breaking a habit, or growing your hair longer. If the change you want to work on is a shorter-term one (like doing better this week than you did last week on your spelling test, or remembering to do all of your chores so that your allowance might increase, then you might concentrate your efforts toward it at those between times, like between when you get home from school and supper, or between your favorite show & bath or bed-time.

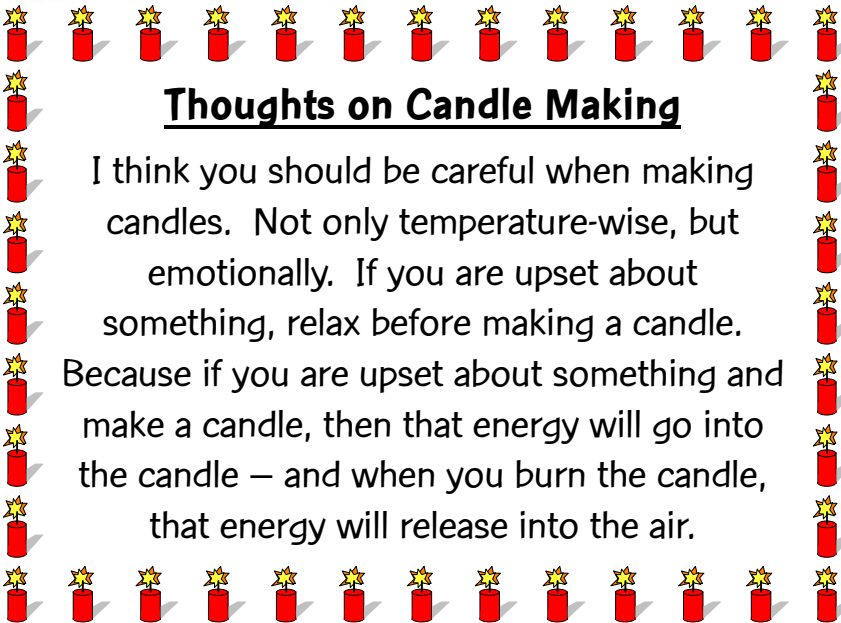
In many magickal circles we are thought to be "in a place that is not a place, in a time that is not a time, between the worlds..." Maybe between-times have a special kind of power or intensity, because they carry a little bit of both extremes. More possibilities are there, then, than on just one side or the other of those doorways. Next time you are tempted to see something as only "black or white" or "right or wrong" - stop & take a look at all of the possibilities that lie in between...you might find a lot more opportunities, answers, & creative ideas in that "gray space" between the extremes than you could only looking on one side or the other!

A decorative border consisting of numerous yellow pencils with pink erasers, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

Kids!!
(And we're not just talking to the younger ones!)
Send us YOUR writing, drawings,
thoughts, or ideas for the next Acorn!
We'd love to see your work in here!!



Kidspirations!



Thoughts on Candle Making

I think you should be careful when making candles. Not only temperature-wise, but emotionally. If you are upset about something, relax before making a candle. Because if you are upset about something and make a candle, then that energy will go into the candle – and when you burn the candle, that energy will release into the air.

This issue's **Kidspirations** writing and artwork by Dragon, age 12, of Akron





PIPING THE DRAGONS' TUNE



NEILSON



EYONA AND HER OWN

Eyona is the ancient Celtic Goddess of Abundance
who cares for all Horses





Crafts by Starlite ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ 

Make Your Own Pennsylvania Dutch Hex Signs!

With family from Pennsylvania, I saw many hex signs when I was growing up. They were painted on barns for the animals for protection and health, and to promote growth and good weather for the crops. On houses I saw distelfinks or birds of paradise. <giggle> I had a great aunt who loved the color blue and I used to think that distelfinks are supposed to be blue... only to find out years later they are traditionally golden! So now that I am moving, I will be making a hex sign to protect my house.....

Basics Shapes or Symbols

Crescent Moons - the four seasons

Distelfink (mythological bird) - good luck and happiness...

Two Distelfinks - double good luck and happiness...

Two Distelfinks (crossed over each other) - true friendship

Doves or Birds of Paradise - friendship, peace, purity, and happiness

Eagle - strength, courage

Heart - love

Oak Leaf - long life, strength, and endurance

Pineapple - welcome (good for front doors)

Raindrops - water, crop growth, and fertility (your animals have babies and plants grow strong)

Rosettes - (thought to be the oldest symbol) good luck

Scallops - ocean waves, smooth sailing in life

Stars - protection against fires, good fortune, hope, love, energy, and harmony

Sun Wheel - warmth and fertility

Tulips - faith, hope, charity and trust in mankind

Wheat - abundance and goodwill



Colors and Their Meanings

- Black** - protection, also used to blend elements together
- Blue** - protection, peace, calmness, and spirituality
- Brown** - Mother Earth, friendship, and strength
- Green** - growth, fertility
- Orange** - abundance in career, adds extra power to sign
- Red** - emotions, passion, and creativity
- Violet** - sacredness
- White** - purity, power of the moon, allows energy to flow freely
- Yellow** - health in body and mind, love of man and the sun,
connection to the God form

Making Your Hex Sign

Now you need a round wooden disk (you can make one from cardboard or construction paper if you're not putting it on your barn or outside). Use pencil to draw your design, then paint them on your disk, or use markers or colored pencils on cardboard. Pasting on paper, felt, or foam cutouts will give it a 3-D effect. Empower it by making a triangle over the sign and chanting or saying whatever you feel it right. My belief is that you should tell the hex sign what its purpose is - maybe to protect your house or your room.

The hex sign on my door will have a black **Scallop** edge and in the middle will be a blue **Rosette** with a purple seven pointed **Star** with a white **Eagle**. I might add some **oak leaves** but not sure yet. For my inside hex sign I will have a large **Heart** with a **Bird of Paradise** inside with **Wheat** at the bottom of this heart. The word **Wilcum** written on it, meaning welcome. You can always paint what you want on a hex sign whatever you want with shapes that are sacred to you! A pentagram with a favorite flower. A star with a phoenix inside with a couple oak leaves for being able to come back from a bad time... hmm, I may put that one in my bedroom...or in the den...or in an office.. Have fun!

*For online pictures and ideas, go to www.hexsigns.com (catalog) or http://store.german-usa.com/Hex_Signs/



Simple Magick!

Dawn's friend who has been to COSO a few times had surgery out of town. This surgery is very invasive, so she is very freaked! So, of course, I do what my tradition does - empower a candle for healing. Then Dawn tells me she will want to take it to the hospital, and (of course) you can't light a candle at the hospital. So we made her some relaxing and healing potpourri - simple and yet effective for a young woman going out of town to have a scary surgery. We used lavender, jasmine, and rose petals for help with relaxing. Funny thing is, the lavender - which is her favorite -really poured out. Was it maybe that "witches' way of knowing?" We added in a quartz and cedar for healing and protection, since she had the fear of going under the knife for the first time. I thought how simple and what a great idea for a few expectant mothers here at COSO after they have their babies, then my mind raced. This would be good for younger kids who aren't allowed to play with candles, for people any age during hospital stays, and for asthmatics! Giggle - sometimes the best spell is so simple...!



The Fox's Den



Foxes are hardy survivors because they live "between the worlds" in many ways. They make their earths (the real word for dens) in safe, tucked-away areas - but they do their traveling and hunting at the edges of forests & farmlands, rivers & banks. This allows them the "best of both worlds" where food is concerned. And *when* do they hunt, explore, & play? Generally at the twilight times of dawn & dusk.

If you are "between" the ages of, say, 9 & 13, they have a new name for you now - "tweenagers!" Instead of letting yourself become frustrated because you feel "too old" for this & then "too young" for that - be like the foxes, & use your between-ness to play & to learn the power that is **you**, right where you are at, between the worlds!

