

THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Do- It- Yourself

The Story of Sleeping Beauty

Key Stage 1

This is one of our range of DIY resources, which aim to provide you with what you need to teach your pupils in the galleries. We hope that the following teaching ideas include some which are suitable for your needs. As we do not know your pupils, or the specific aims of your visit, these ideas may need adapting, but we hope they will act as a springboard. Each idea includes signpost sequences all of which point to pupil interaction with the exhibits, *example prompt questions written in italics*, and information. Many are followed by suggested extension ideas that can take place in the galleries. 'Into Action' sheets, which are linked to these teaching ideas, are available for pupils to use in the galleries.

When you are talking in front of the painting, or any work of art in the Museum, be very careful not to touch it yourself. Also, as the children sit down in front of the painting make sure that they can all see the painting – the gallery lighting can make this difficult if the children sit too close. Often it is better to sit the children a little further back to give them a good view.

Aims of the Sleeping Beauty session

- To introduce young children to looking at paintings.
- To encourage young children to engage actively with real paintings.
- To link paintings and story to provide a familiar context for learning from paintings.
- To encourage young children to enjoy paintings and to want to see more.
- To stimulate a desire for young children to make paintings themselves.

Galleries used in this session

Galleries 3, 5, 8, 15, 17 and 31

Sleeping Beauty

Take children to **Gallery 3**. Sit them down comfortably on the carpet.

Once upon a time ... in a far off land there lived a king and his queen. The king thought that his wife was the most beautiful woman in the world. He wanted to have a picture of his queen to remind him of her beauty. Nowadays he might have taken a photograph of her but he lived before the camera had been invented.

What do you think he did?

He paid someone to paint her picture. A picture that is of a real person is called a portrait.

Can you find the portrait of the queen?

Remind the children of the rules of the Museum (no running, no touching, no leaning on anything) and then ask them to go and find the portrait. When they have found it the children should sit down in front of the painting.

Elizabeth Vernon, Countess of Southampton, by Anon, Museum Number: PD.6-1984



Why do you think that she is the queen?

Look at her crown, clothes (what are they made from – get the children to think about materials, fur), jewellery – get them to look very carefully and tell you everything they can see.

Do you think she looks happy?

She should have been happy but she wasn't. The king and queen could have anything they wanted but there was one thing they wanted desperately that they could not buy.

What do you think it was?

A baby. The years went by and the king and queen got sadder and sadder then one fine day the queen woke up feeling very sick. She got out of bed and felt even worse! The doctor was called and after he had seen her he told the king the wonderful news – the queen was expecting a baby.

A few months later a beautiful baby girl was born. Let's go and find her.

Go into Gallery 5 and find the sculpture of the mother and her baby.

***Maternity* by Aimé Jules Dalou, Museum Number: M.3-1927 (no image available)**

Sit the children down in front of the sculpture, making sure that they are grouped away from other objects and so that they do not block the doorway.

Who is this lady with the baby?

Look at her clothes and shoes.

Are they like the queen's? How are they different?

Look at how she is holding the baby. She is the nurse.

Explain that rich people in those days would employ someone to feed the baby for them.

The king and queen were so happy and they decided to have a naming ceremony for their little girl. (There is an opportunity here to talk about different kinds of naming ceremonies – christenings, dedications, cross faith naming ceremonies). They invited lots of people and held a big party.

Let's go and find some of the people who came to the party.

Go back to Gallery 3.

Can you imagine what the party was like?

It was in a huge room – even bigger than this room and higher than this room. Lots of rich people came. You can look around the gallery and find some of them, because their pictures are on the wall.

Show them the Hogarth portraits.



***George Arnold* by William Hogarth, Museum Number: 21**

How do we know they are rich?

Clothes, pose, had their portraits painted – must have had money to pay for pictures. They all brought the baby beautiful presents.

What might they have bought her?

As well as all these people there were others who came to the party but we can't show you pictures of them because they are invisible.

Who do you think they were?

They were fairies and they too brought gifts for the little girl – special gifts of beauty, wit, grace, that she would be a good dancer, have a good singing voice, musical talent.

But in the middle of the party, there was a sudden crash of thunder and the room went dark. The door opened and all eyes turned to see Carabos, the wicked fairy, her eyes blazing with anger.

“How dare you not invite me to your party!” she roared, pointing her magic wand at the baby’s cradle. “My gift to your precious daughter is this – on her 18th birthday she will pierce her hand on a spindle and die”. With that she disappeared.

The room was silent as the guests stood in shock and horror. Then very quietly, the youngest fairy of them all stepped out from behind a curtain.

“I may not be very big or powerful but I still have my gift to give to the princess”, she said. “She will not die but only sleep for 100 years – this I can do although it is not in my power to stop the curse completely”.

Well, as you can imagine, the king and queen were devastated and the king sent out a ruling that all the spindles must be burnt.

Now let us travel forward in time in our story and see what the princess looked like when she was older.

Go into Gallery 5 and find the picture of the princess with her mother.



Marguerite Gerard “The Reader” by Fragonard,
Museum Number: M8

This picture shows the princess just a few days before her 18th birthday.

Get children to describe what they can see.

*How does the princess look? Where are they? What are they doing?
And what about her mother?*

Her mother is planning a party for the princess’s birthday. Let’s go and find the palace where the party is going to take place.

Go into Gallery 8

Wooded Landscape by David Vinckeboons, Museum Number: 90



Look carefully and tell me what you can see?

Palace, wood, bridge, birds, people – what are they doing?

It is the day of the princess's birthday and the king and queen have gone out hunting before the party in the evening.

But where is the princess?

Find the bridge near the castle – she is standing on the bridge not knowing what to do with herself. She is very excited about the party but it is too early to go and get ready. She decides to go exploring in the castle. Down corridors and up stairs she goes until she find herself at the very top of one of the towers and outside a large wooden door. In the door is a large rusty key – she cannot resist turning it. The heavy door swings open and someone is sitting in the room Let's go and see who it is.

Go to Gallery 15

An Old Woman Spinning by Michael Sweerts, Museum Number: PD.I45-1994 (no image available)

“Come in” says the woman to the princess “I have been waiting for you to help me with my spinning”. The princess sits down at the spinning wheel and takes hold of the spindle. She pricks her finger and falls down on the spot – fast asleep. At the same time everyone in the castle and the hunting party also fall into a deep sleep and there is absolute silence.

Very, very quietly I want you to follow me into **Gallery 17** where we will hear the time ticking away.

Long case clock

Get the children to be silent so that they can hear the clock ticking. For a long, long time this was the only noise that was heard in the castle. The days, months and years went by very slowly until the clock had been ticking for 100 years.

Who were they waiting for?

Go to the Armoury, Gallery 31

Armour for Horse and Man, Unknown makers



Here is our Prince - he had heard the legend of the sleeping princess and came to find her. Over the years the castle had become completely overgrown and covered in brambles. He had to wear his armour to get through but as he got closer to the castle the path cleared. He couldn't believe what he saw - there were people sleeping exactly where they had been when the princess had pricked her finger 100 years before. Making his way through the sleeping bodies the prince found the entrance to the tower and followed the winding staircase up to the very top. There, lying on the floor of the small room at the top, was the princess lying exactly where she had fallen. The prince kissed her and she woke up, fell in love with him and they all lived happily ever after.

Resources for the Story of Sleeping Beauty

The following "Into Action" sheets are available from the Education Department:

Be a Wedding Guest

Be a Prince

Be a Princess

Further information about many exhibits is available on our new website Pharos - www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/pharos.