

Word Hunt:

Read the following text. Highlight or circle the word containing the root. In the space provided, tell what you think that highlighted or circled word means based on your context clues.

You may be familiar with the Salem Witch Trials that took place in the United States in 1692, but did you know there were witch-hunts and trials in Europe in the early 1500's? One such malevolent occurrence took place in Valcamonica, a narrow valley in the Lombardy Alps, in Italy. This village is famous for the prehistoric diagrams etched in the rocks. These drawings show symbols and figures of agriculture, war, and magic. The village of Valcamonica is nestled in a lush valley. You can get there by train from Brescia. The fields in this valley are generally fertile and the annual crops usually grow well and yield plenty for the people to eat each year. Unfortunately, in the year of 1518 there were torrential storms that flooded the nearby river and drowned the fields. The crops were ruined; the people of the village were hungry and looking for someone to blame.

Roberto was a young boy that lived in Valcamonica. He liked to brag and tell stories. He wanted the attention that came with spinning tales. He did not care that telling lies was not just conduct. He felt it was acceptable behavior to stretch the truth if it surrounded him with a crowd of villagers eager to hear him talk.

Roberto liked to hike outside of the village to pick fungi for his mother to cook. He bragged about how he knew which mushrooms to pick that were good for eating. One evening after returning from the woods, he settled in front of a fire at the village inn and started to weave a tale of an old woman he saw in the woods. He denounced her as a witch. Publicly he condemned her and stated that she was the one causing the storms and the flooding.

“What did she look like?” yelled one of the villagers.

“Well,” exclaimed Roberto. “She was a solitary figure in the forest. I noticed her because she was alone in a clearing. She was standing by a caldron casting spells.” In actuality the woman was standing outside of her house doing laundry, but it made a better story to say she was casting spells. Roberto continued, noticing that the crowd was getting bigger and bigger. It was now a mob, wanting to hear more about this witch.

“How did you know she was casting spells?” questioned one villager.

“Do you think really think she is causing the lightning and the thunder?” yelled another.

“Her caldron was luminous in the dark. It glowed as she said proverbs over it. She sang these wise sayings to the sky and called for storms to come,” exclaimed Roberto excited at the crowd he was drawing.

An angry farmer at the front of the crowd yelled out, “If she is a witch and causing these storms, she must be stopped. We need to capture her and kill her for her misdeeds.” Before Roberto could recant his story the crowd began to move back, grabbing tools, knives, and torches as they ran to take the trail that led to the clearing in the woods. It was too late; Roberto could not take back his lie

Definitions: Write the word, the root (2 pts), and the definition for each word using context clues (6 pts). DO NOT USE THE DICTIONARY!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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10. _____