



magpie

magpie

Magpie 2 Wonder words

- What do these mean?
 - Manifesto
 - Bicker
 - Snicker
 - Interject
 - Intercept
 - Intervene

Can you find any synonyms? Try using them with a partner by creating different sentences.

- Idiom: Can you explain the meaning of this: 'Argue Every Toss!'

Seek, find, speak

- What do you notice about the punctuation? Why do you think the writer has done this?
- What do the last three lines of the spell tell you? Can you think of any other creatures that behave in this way?
- Think, pair, share: describe the character of the magpie in your own words.
- Think of a bird which is a complete contrast to the magpie.

Magpie 3 Seek, find, speak

- Find out about magpie nests – how and where they are constructed.
- How did the magpie get its name? [Mag = Margaret (women in general) Pie = pointed (tail or wing)]
- Find out the collective noun for a group of magpies.
- Find out the length of the body, its tail and wingspan.

Creative challenge

- Create a comic strip retelling of 'The Magpie's Nest' Search: *Full Online Book Magpies Nest*

Writing challenge

- Create a kenning on the magpie. This acts like a riddle by describing something indirectly. They are lines of two words joined together with a hyphen to make a new noun. E.g. swan-road = river (noun-noun)
 - Think about how the magpie looks, moves,

sounds, behaves and list the words.

- Link words together to convey the character of the magpie, e.g. Street-scavenger Cheeky-chatterer
- Tips: think about rhythm and alliteration; play around with the pairings and order; magpie words from Robert Macfarlane's spell!

- Practise and perform.

Art challenge

- Look at magpies on the ground, in trees and in flight. Find images of them and sketch, paint or create a collage of a magpie.



Magpie 1 Seek, find, speak

- What time of year is it in the painting?
- What creatures are absent?
- Research challenge: Find out about these creatures and create an infographic, showing their Latin name and the family to which they belong; the development of the chicks; any other interesting information. Search: *RSPB Magpie*; *Wikipedia Magpie*

Further reading and connections

- Traditional rhymes Search: *Wikipedia One for Sorrow*
- Find different versions and create your own, using the same rhyme scheme.
- Find out about the storyline to Rossini's opera, *The Thieving Magpie*.
- Read the poem by Sian MacKay Search: *Sian MacKay Magpie*
- The Adventures of Tintin: The Castafiore Emerald.
- Dreamtime myths Search: *World Stories First Sunrise*
- The Magpie, a painting by Claude Monet Search: *Monet Magpie*

newt

newt

Newt 1 Seek, find and speak

- What class of animals does this one belong to?
- Which different kinds can be found in the United Kingdom?
- Judging from the outline, which sort do you think this is?
- What sort of plant do you think is in this picture?

Newt 2 Wonder words

- What do these mean?
 - emoted
 - unhirsute
 - disrepute
 - coot
 - unastute

Can you find any synonyms and antonyms? Try using them with a partner by creating different sentences.

Seek, find, speak

- What techniques has the writer used?
- What sort of effect is created?
- What other words rhyme with coot?

- How does the newt feel about himself? Look at the gold leaf painting. Do you think his ideas (king, lions, dragons) work well? Give reasons. Why do you think the newt pauses at the end?

Writing challenge

- In pairs: Choose two creatures that can have a conversation with each other, with one commenting on the other's character and appearance. Decide how they will be answered and write it up as a short play script.



Newt 3 Seek, find, speak

- Why do you think the artist chose to paint the newt so large and the coot in the distance? What features can you identify?
- Find out about coots and crested newts and add to your fact files.

