

# Midsummer Moon Story and Workbook

## Midsummer Moon

tells the story of lame-footed Princess Sharma,  
who lives under the spell of the Forest Sorceress.  
One day, a poor young woodsman is sent up the  
mountain side to the Enchanted Forest, bringing  
a pair of 'magic slippers' for her to dance in.



# Midsummer Moon

**B**elieve it or not,” said Count Owl, “I can **trace my family roots** all the way back to the **Transylvanian** House of Kronenberg. Once upon a time, we were **Lords** of the forest!”

He looked down from the oak tree and a huge tear dropped from his yellow eyes. The Count was talking to Mistress Grimsly Mushroom, who was the headmistress of the Grimsly Mushroom **Academy**. She taught lessons here under the oak tree from **dusk to dawn**.

“Hush, girls, stop your giggling,” she said to the grinning toadstools. They were dressed, as usual, in crimson hooped skirts **spangled with bright spots**, which was such a bad example for her serious young ladies at the Mushroom Academy. “Now, does anyone remember last night’s lesson? What are the best colours for young ladies?”

“**Woodbark** brown,” answered one of her brightest pupils.

“Very good,” said the headmistress. “What else?”

“Creamy satin for evening dresses.”

“Excellent!” said Mistress Grimsly with a smile. “And occasionally, I might allow a dainty flush of rose pink.”

Some excited chattering broke out among the **toadstools**.

“I said only occasionally,” said the schoolmistress. “At most, once or twice a year, at the **Feast** of the Midsummer Moon.”

“Oh, Mistress Grimsly, what happens then?” asked little Marsha Mushroom, poking her head out of the ground. She often arrived late and so she had missed a lot of what was happening.



“Well, everyone dresses up in their finest gowns and we all have a midnight feast to **celebrate** the coming of summer.”

“Oh, that must be such fun! When is the Feast of Midsummer?”

“Not soon,” said Mistress Grimsly. “The ground is bitter cold and spring is late again this year.”



Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( **Transylvanian** ) across or through the woods, from the Latin.
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
know about my family history
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
the hard crust around a tree trunk
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
a kind of poisonous mushroom
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
dotted with bright colours
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
all through the night
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Masters, Rulers
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
a special meal
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
have a party
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
school

## Midsummer Moon



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 1

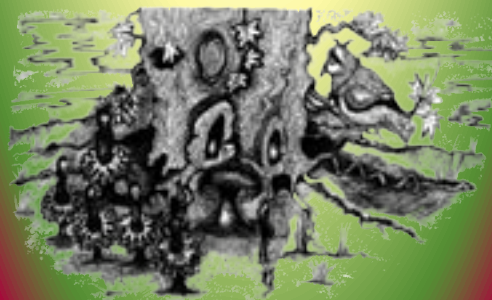
- a. Why is Count Owl so proud of his family history?
- b. What do you think the pretty toadstools are giggling about?
- c. What is Mistress Grimsly trying to teach her students?
- d. Who always arrives late for lessons?
- e. When is the Feast of the Midsummer Moon?



Can you draw a picture of Marsha Mushroom talking to Mistress Grimsly?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.



I remember when the forest was all ours,” said Count Owl. “My **ancestors** used to—Halt! Who goes there?” He blinked his **topaz** eyes at the **pearly dawn**.

“A stranger,” frowned Mistress Grimsly.

“A **peasant**,” said Count Owl **contemptuously**. “A **nouveau riche**, no doubt.”

“What a handsome young man he is,” whispered Marsha Mushroom to her friend, the toadstool.

“Silence!” said Mistress Grimsly.

“I beg your pardon, Mistress Grimsly,” said Marsha. “What is a nouveau riche?”

“Look in your dictionary, Miss Marsha,” said the headmistress.

“A nouveau riche,” said Count Owl (who was very wise and **learnèd**), “is a vulgar peasant who steals his master’s new cloak, then wears it himself.”

“But that can’t be true,” said Marsha. “The young man’s tunic is all torn. I see holes in the soles of his shoes.”

“Whooh–Whooh! Is that so, little mushroom?” hooted Count Owl. “Well, let me tell you something! He may look like a peasant, but deep in the heart of every peasant is the **secret desire** to be king.”







Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Midsummer Moon story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. ( **nouveau riche** ) a tradesperson who becomes very rich
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
rough-mannered worker from the countryside
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
members of my family who were born before me
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
a yellow precious stone
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
the pale morning sky
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
well educated
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
disrespectfully
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
a hidden wish

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 2

- a. Why doesn't Count Owl trust the stranger in the woods?
- b. Do you think that wise old Count Owl is right to be suspicious?
- c. What does Marsha Mushroom think about the woodsman?



Can you draw a picture of the woodsman?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.

