



RESOURCE PACK FOR KS1/2

THE Princess IN BLACK

Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

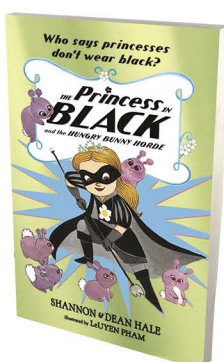
illustrated by LeUyen Pham



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THE AIM

The Princess in Black series by Shannon and Dean Hale and illustrated by LeUyen Pham is the perfect KS1/2 transition class reader for children beginning to gain confidence in reading in Years 2–3, ages 6+. These notes serve as an introduction to this princess-come-superhero adventure, focusing in particular on reading comprehension, inference and predictive skills in literacy, while also providing an opportunity for children to consider the prevalence of day-to-day stereotypes and the importance of breaking them down.

ABOUT THE BOOKS

From the award-winning writing team of Shannon and Dean Hale and illustrator LeUyen Pham comes the *New York Times* best-selling humorous and action-packed chapter-book series for young readers who like their princesses not only prim and perfect, but also dressed in black.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

LESSON ONE: INTRODUCING THE SERIES

Objectives:

- To make inferences based on the language used in the titles of the books as well as their book covers
- To be able to make predictions about the events of a story based on its title and book cover

Outcomes: A storyboard predicting the events of a story; a book cover for the next title in the series

LESSON TWO: WHAT ARE STEREOTYPES?

Objectives:

- To understand what we mean by stereotypes and how we apply them in every day scenarios
- To explore why it is wrong to judge people by their gender, their job or their physical appearance

Outcome: A structured class discussion around stereotypes; a completed written statement about stereotypes

LESSON THREE: SMASHING STEREOTYPES

Objectives:

- To identify how The Princess in Black series challenges stereotypes
- To understand how LeUyen Pham's illustrations help to challenge stereotypes

Outcomes: A table of illustrated objects and their connotations; a drawing of two objects that represent your personality

LESSON FOUR: CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

Objectives:

- To explore how 'difference' is essential to the world
- To understand the importance of celebrating difference and valuing individuality

Outcomes: Completed sentence statements about how people are different in the classroom and why difference is important

LESSON FIVE: MY UNIQUE PRINCE OR PRINCESS

Objectives:

- To recap how the princess in black is a unique character
- To create a character profile for a unique prince or princess character

Outcomes: A completed character profile for a unique prince or princess character

LESSON SIX: REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

Objectives:

- To identify and to summarise prior learning
- To use prior learning to inform new opinions

Outcomes: A list of reflective statements about what has been learned

LESSON ONE: INTRODUCING THE SERIES

Lead-in questions:

- What does the word 'princess' make you think of?
- What does the colour 'black' make you think of?
- Would you put these words together? Why/why not?

Task 1:

In pairs, discuss the title of the first book in the series: *The Princess in Black*.

Use the questions below to help you talk about it:

1. Which words stand out to you in this title? Why?
2. What is strange or unique about the title?
3. What might this princess be like? Why? How might she be different from other princesses?



Task 2:

Now read the different titles of the first four books in the series:

The Princess in Black

The Princess in Black and the Perfect Princess Party

The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horde

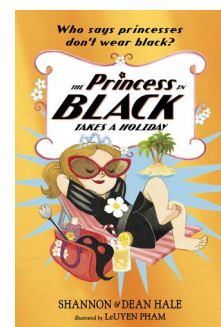
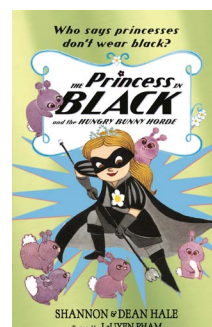
The Princess in Black Takes a Holiday

- Which of these titles is your favourite? Why?
- Which title draws the reader in the most? How?
- What effective words and phrases are used?
- What do you think these stories might be about?
- How are the titles similar? Why do you think this might be?

Task 3:

Now look at the covers for all of the first four books in the Princess in Black series:

Which book cover do you like the best? Why? Can you guess any more about the stories from their book covers?



Task 4:

Finally, choose just one of the book covers that you've looked at in this lesson. Using the title and the book cover, make four predictions on the Storyboard below about what you think could happen in the story. Draw pictures in the top boxes and write bullet points or headers underneath.

My Predictions: Storyboard

Task 5:

Imagine that you are an illustrator and you have been asked to design a front cover for the newest title in the series: *The Princess in Black and the Mysterious Playdate*. Remember the following success criteria when creating a book cover: a bold design; strong colours; and a clear title. Share your book covers with us on Twitter using the #princessinblack hashtag!

LESSON TWO: WHAT ARE STEREOTYPES?

This lesson is designed to help pupils explore ideas and speculate about themes in the books. They should feel free to discuss anything that comes to mind.

Lead-in questions:

- What is a stereotype?
- How do you judge people before you speak to them?

Task 1:

In pairs, cut out the different job cards below. Discuss the type of person you imagine doing each job. Share your ideas with the class.

NURSE	SOLDIER	CAKE-MAKER
HAIRDRESSER	FIREFIGHTER	FOOTBALLER

Task 2:

In your pairs again, can you sort these job cards into jobs stereotypically done by men, and jobs done by women? Share your ideas with the class, and give reasons for your answers.

Task 3:

Finally, discuss with your partner how it is possible for both men and women to do each job listed on the cards. Why is it important not to judge someone simply based on the job they do?

Task 4:

Consider the scenario below:

Jamie is a wheelchair user who loves sports. His neighbour asked him, 'Which sport do you like watching best?'

Jamie replied, 'Who says I just watch?'

- What did Jamie's neighbour assume about Jamie?
- Why was Jamie's neighbour wrong to do this?

Task 5:

Look at the statement:

We should never judge a person or a group just because of the way they look, their gender, the job they have, their age or their likes and dislikes.

Together, discuss this statement and what you think it means or why it is important.

Before you begin, cut out the Princess Mask template below. Then, sit around the classroom with all of your classmates in a big circle. Pass the Princess Mask around the circle; when it is your turn to wear it, it is also your turn to speak. Remember to listen carefully to what everyone has to say.



Task 6:

Finally, considering everything you have talked about in this lesson, finish the statement with your own ideas:

We should never judge a person or a group just because of the way they look, their gender, the job they have, their age or their likes and dislikes. This is because

LESSON THREE: SMASHING STEREOTYPES

This lesson is designed to help pupils explore ideas and speculate about themes in the books. They should feel free to discuss anything that comes to mind.

Lead-in questions:

- What do you think a princess is usually like?
- What is the stereotype of a princess?

Task 1:

Look at the illustration of Princess Magnolia before she turns into the Princess in Black. Answer the questions below:

1. How does this illustration show the typical stereotype of a princess?
2. What is Princess Magnolia wearing? What colour is it? Why is this important?
3. What is Princess Magnolia doing? Why is this important?

Present your group's findings back to the class.

Task 2:

Now look at the illustration of Princess Magnolia when she has transformed into the Princess in Black. Answer the questions below:

1. How is this illustration different from the first illustration in Task 1?
2. How does this illustration challenge the normal stereotype of a princess?
3. Which illustration do you prefer?

Task 3:

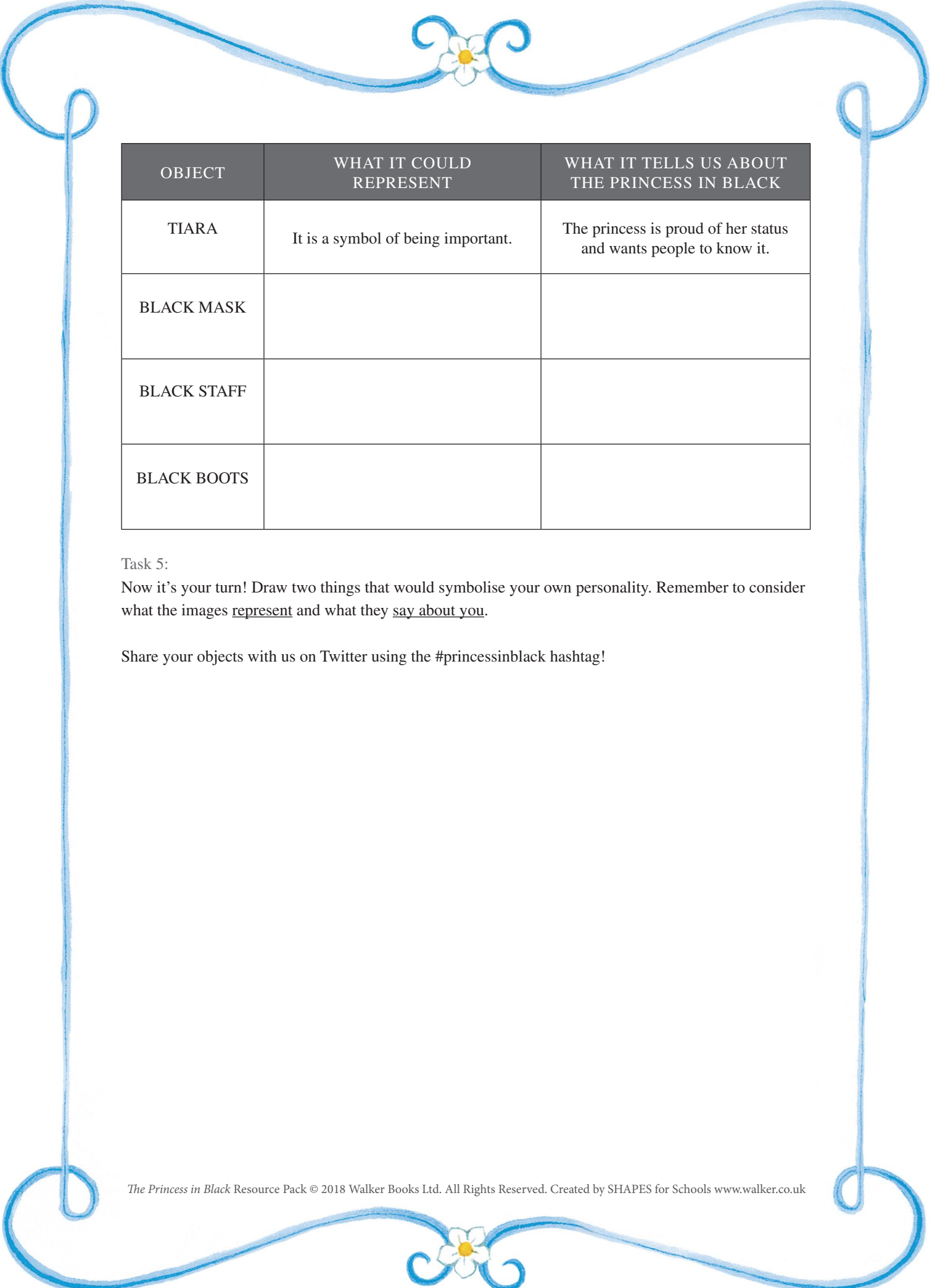
Look at the illustration from Task 2 again. Can you find some of the following objects?

TIARA
BLACK MASK
BLACK STAFF
BLACK BOOTS

Task 4:

Now that you've found all of the things above, write down what you think each of them could represent and what it tells us about the Princess in Black. Use the grid on the next page to record your ideas!





OBJECT	WHAT IT COULD REPRESENT	WHAT IT TELLS US ABOUT THE PRINCESS IN BLACK
TIARA	It is a symbol of being important.	The princess is proud of her status and wants people to know it.
BLACK MASK		
BLACK STAFF		
BLACK BOOTS		

Task 5:

Now it's your turn! Draw two things that would symbolise your own personality. Remember to consider what the images represent and what they say about you.

Share your objects with us on Twitter using the #princessinblack hashtag!

LESSON FOUR: CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

Lead-in questions:

- Where have you heard the word 'different'?
- Can you put the word 'different' into a sentence and share it with the class?

Task 1:

Read pages 12-15 from *The Princess in Black* and answer the comprehension questions below:

1. What five things do princess not do according to this passage?
2. Where do most princesses not live?
3. What is no job for 'prim and perfect Princess Magnolia'?
4. What do you think Princess Magnolia's secret is?

Task 2:

What do we normally expect a princess to be like? Choose some words from the word-bank below. Explain why you have chosen your words.

PRETTY GENTLE FIERCE STRONG

VIOLENT QUIET POLITE POWERFUL CALM

Task 3:

How is the Princess in Black different from other princesses? Use your answers from Task 1 and the word-bank from Task 2 to help you.

Task 4:

With the people sitting next to you, discuss how you are different from each other. You can use the following sentence starters to help you:

I am different because of the way I look (e.g. I have brown eyes etc.).....
I am different because my favourite things are.....
I am different because my least favourite things are.....
I am different because my talents are.....
I am different because my family is.....

Task 5:

Finally, write a sentence explaining why you think it is good to be different.

I think it's good to be different because.....



LESSON FIVE: MY UNIQUE PRINCE OR PRINCESS

Re-cap questions:

- What does it mean to be 'different'?
- Why should we celebrate being different?
- How is the Princess in Black unique?

Task 1:

Imagine you have been asked to create your own unique and interesting prince or princess character.

Share your ideas for your character with your partner. Consider the following things:

- What will he/she be called?
- How will he/she be different?
- What skills will he/she have?
- Where will he/she live?
- What will he/she wear and what objects will he/she carry?

Task 2:

Now that you have considered these things, complete the character profile for your unique prince or princess.



MY UNIQUE CHARACTER

Draw your Prince or Princess above.

Name:

My Prince or Princess's unique features:

.....

How I am courageous:

Special skills:

Special objects:

Best friend:

Biggest enemy:

LESSON SIX: REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

Task 1:

Take a moment to think about the work that you have completed in these lessons. You should be able to look back and find examples of the following:

- ✓ **LESSON ONE:** Storyboards and a book cover for the next title in The Princess in Black series
- ✓ **LESSON TWO:** A completed written statement about stereotypes
- ✓ **LESSON THREE:** Two drawings of objects that represent your own unique personality
- ✓ **LESSON FOUR:** Completed sentence statements about how people are different in your class
- ✓ **LESSON FIVE:** A character profile for your own unique princess character

Which has been your favourite piece of work and why?

Task 2:

Complete the following statements:

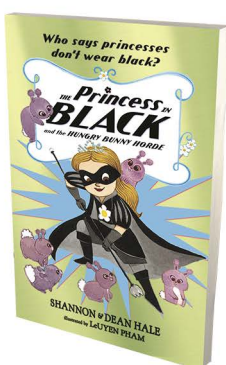
1. One thing I have learned about stereotypes is.....
2. One thing I have learned about being different is.....
3. One thing I have learned about someone in my class is.....
4. One thing I have learned about The Princess in Black series is.....



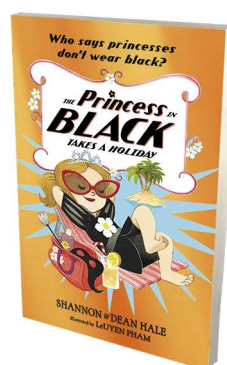
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