



Eloise the Witch and the Wordsmith

English Teaching Aid

Improving English Skills the Easy Way

Eloise, the Witch and the Wordsmith features over 100 expressive words that are naturally imbedded into the story but which children are unlikely to be familiar with. It offers a unique opportunity for discussion and learning about the richness of the English language.

Each chapter has a *Word-sheet* (see below) that can be used in a number of ways.

At Home

- Access by computer. Parent and child can discuss the words. Dictionary use is encouraged.
- Printed out for a child to write down briefly what the words or sentences might mean. The child may at times construct a new sentence using a given word.

At School

- A similar approach is suitable in a classroom setting. The teacher may project the *Word-sheet* for discussion after the class has enjoyed listening to a chapter. Or hard copy can be handed out.

Engagement in narrative makes English language work fun and naturally facilitates learning. Furthermore, *Eloise, the Witch and the Wordsmith* encourages a positive self image in children. It's a wonderful adventure.



Eloise the Witch and the Wordsmith

Chapter 1 Eloise has had enough!

Word-sheet

Eloise's brothers had locked her out of the house and laughed **gleefully** from behind the window as Eloise tried not to cry.

Eloise decided she would go down to the tree and climb onto the twisting old branches reaching down to the ground and **nestle** amongst the damp leaves.

Rose looked **disdainfully** down at Cabbage.

'But, we have plenty of room,' Rose said, 'so I **daresay** he can stay.'

And off Rose went, trailing Cabbage behind her, **petals** from her dress dropping at Eloise's feet.



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Chapter 2 Eloise finds a Password and uses her Imagination

Word-sheet

His hair hung down in **ringlets**, which Eloise thought very strange for a man.

Rainbow **preened** at her colors, proud that she could be useful and very pleased that Eloise liked her.

'Well, the words I really like are **cuddly, soft, furry, warm, and snuggly,**' said Eloise.

Eloise bent low to get through some **dense** undergrowth.



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Chapter 3 Eloise learns about the Doors

Word-sheet

It so happened that when the last Petal **fluttered** to the ground the Cat stopped suddenly.

Cat stopped talking and began to **leisurely** lick its paws.

Eloise **flopped** down onto the path.

She started **reciting** words from the Dictionary.

And off the Cat **ambled** underneath the bushes and lay down.



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Chapter 4 Eloise is confused about Time

Word-sheet

Rainbow's colors were getting **tangled up**, so **agitated** was she.

The Cat seemed to be tired of talking and **slunk out of the nook**.

Cat looked as **bashful** as a Cat could look.

'We will **tread** very carefully and try to reach the Doors without the Jackdaws seeing us,' Eloise decided



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Chapter 5 Eloise meets the Owl and the Clock and chooses a Door

Word-sheet

A loud **caw-cawing** sound of the Jackdaws filled the chilled night air as they **lunged** and dived, **poking and stabbing** at something on the ground.

Owl flew straight at the Jackdaws with its round eyes **bulging** with flashing beams of fire.

The Jackdaws enjoyed **swooping** through the winter mist dropping **icicles** on whoever dared to approach the Doors.

The Jackdaws had gathered courage, and full of **malice** and wickedness once more tried to destroy Time.

As Eloise looked on, her breath became misty **halos** around her, the frosty grass **glinting** with **slivers** of light, surrounding her and keeping her safe.

Out of sight, **skulking** over the field into the dark wood, a lone Jackdaw, burned and unable to fly, made its escape.



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Chapter 6 Eloise meets Mr Henry and enters the Castle

Word-sheet

Eloise did as the Cat told her, scratching off the ice and **peering** through the glass.

It was dark, cold and **desolate** here.

The injured Cat **scampered** painfully through the Door.

Mr Henry started to laugh as if he thought that was funny, his little fat body **wobbling and heaving**.

Mr Henry rolled around in the grass laughing and **hooting with glee**.

With an **extravagant flourish** Mr Henry waved them all through the gate at last.



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Chapter 7 Eloise is all alone and meets the Girl-with-no-Name

Word-sheet

The noise was terrible. **Clinking and clanking**, bells ringing, whistles blowing, hooters blaring, singing and shouting everywhere.

As Eloise was deciding what she should do now that she was obviously on her own, there **sprouted** all around her, exploding in little craters out of the ground, Question Marks.

Eloise couldn't stand the noise and decided to make a run for the end of the yard to escape **the din**.

Cut into the bottom of the ledge was a small **alcove**.

'And I need a rest,' said the Cat. 'I am quite **frazzled** with my injuries.'



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Chapter 8 Eloise visits the Towers and finds the Book Room

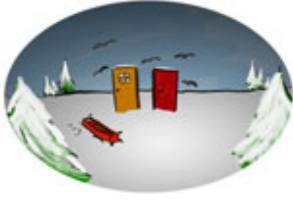
Word-sheet

Now it was really dark, and quiet and **eerily** still.

Flitting over the lady's face was a look of anger quickly replaced by a charming smile.

'Oh but you are so young,' the lady said to Eloise, 'to be **wandering** around the Castle alone.'

He was a **swarthy** looking man dressed in leather **breeches** and **waistcoat**, and **slung** across his shoulders was a **bulging** sack.



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Chapter 9 Eloise learns about the Great Witch

Word-sheet

There was just enough light for her to see a **draped** window across the room.

'I am not ok at all,' the Gentle Giant **whimpered**.

The Great Witch **puffed** her poisoned breath over us all.

'We could do nothing, we couldn't move a muscle, and so my friend was able to bind and **gag** us.'

The Witch may **disguise** herself but she can't change her eyes.

Eloise undid the ropes that tied him to the chair, **chiding** him that he could easily have freed himself! After all he was a Giant!

The Gentle Giant **lumbered** to his feet, rubbing his wrists, sore from his bindings and his beatings.



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Chapter 10 The Great Witch and the Treasure Hunter

Word-sheet

The Treasure Hunter realised he had been **duped** by the Witch and that he had betrayed his friends. He **slumped** on to the Witch's chair, ashamed that he had beaten the Gentle Giant who had once been so kind to him.

Most of the Castle Folk were busy preparing for the Wordsmith's party, but one or two were **lingering** on the paths.

'Get up and stop **sniveling!**' The Witch told the Treasure Hunter.

The Treasure Hunter hurried up the corridor to the dark alcove, looking back to see the Great Witch **staring at him with venom.**

The Great Witch strode up to him and **yanked** the key from his hands.

'Don't kill him. Remember I want him alive,' she **cackled** with that evil laugh.



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Chapter 11 An Escape Route is Discovered

Word-sheet

Some of the Characters were so tiny they weren't tied up at all, but had **huddled** together for comfort in the shadowy corner of the room.

The fairies were so delicate with **gossamer** thin wings fluttering in fear. They look like butterflies thought Eloise, gently stroking their faces.

The Three Fairies flew out and settled together on the carpet **twittering** to each other with relief.

There were lots of **nooks and crannies** as a Castle Tower should have, alcoves, cupboards and long narrow windows shuttered with heavy **brocade** hangings.

Eloise reached up for the ring of the trapdoor and found she could easily fit her fingers in and gave a **tug**.



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Chapter 12 Eloise stays with the Gentle Giant

Word-sheet

'Jolly good idea!' Jennifer said, **piqued** that she hadn't thought of it first.

Eloise and the Gentle Giant **heaved** the steps up, with help from the Professor at the top and as soon as they were in place he pulled the Trapdoor shut.

The Great Witch turned the key and opened the door slowly, **her long red hair framing a face filled with malice.**

The Witch wandered around the long room, opening a cupboard here, peering in an alcove there, slowly, **menacingly**. As she neared the windows she pulled aside some hangings, her face **averted** from the light.

There was a skylight on the outside wall, and though **grimy** gave enough light to see by.

The Great Witch spun around at the sound of Eloise shouting from the hanging. She started her evil cackle, throwing her head back **emitting** such foul laughing from her throat.



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Chapter 13 Eloise makes a Plan

Word-sheet

She (Jennifer) opened the old pages and read as quickly as she could the thick **parchment** written in the spidery scrawl of The Wordsmith.

Somehow we must **entice** the Witch to the Deep Garden and let the Fireflies do their work. Hmm,' the Professor stroked his chin deep in thought.

'Once more I have you in my **clutches**. Go and see if darkness has fallen, girl,' the Witch said to Eloise.

'You wouldn't dare confront the Wordsmith with your Victory at the Party and show him your strength! You wouldn't dare!' Eloise said **defiantly** to the Witch.

The Great Witch stared at Eloise. Why shouldn't the Great Witch confront the Wordsmith with her **spoils**, declaring in front of the whole Castle her Victory?



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Chapter 14 The Great Witch meets her End

Word-sheet

The Treasure Hunter looked up in surprise as the **entourage filed** through the room to the door to the steps down.

Down they went, round and around, Arnold holding on to the Fairies, Jennifer **cradling** the Wood Folk in her arms.

The Witch was so filled with her thoughts of **vanquishing** the Wordsmith that she didn't hear the soft hum of the Fireflies that grew and grew around her, exploding from their hidden places, surrounding her with hot brightness, fire light, **scalding** her with dazzling, brilliant, blinding brightness, **enveloping** her in such sparkling radiance that she cringed, folded herself into a **desolate parody of greatness**, and crumpled to the ground, spent of her power, slack with defeat.

If allowed the Great Witch would **stifle** the plots, control the Characters, and the children who would read her stories would never know the wonder and joy of the imagination. Eloise knew what she must do.

Eloise's tiredness was **ebbing** away. She decided she had never felt so happy in her life.



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Chapter 15 The Party

Word-sheet

Page 1

They found the Wordsmith by the bonfire surrounded by the Castle Folk, who pushed and **jostled** to get near him.

It was a time of **revelry** and **carousing**, which went on into the night.

Tumblers would entertain them, leaping and showing off their tricks, **Troubadours** would sing their songs of Love.

The Wordsmith smiled at her and **beckoned** for Eloise to share his chair. 'I will send some Folk to fetch the Witch and take her to the Tower where she will be locked away as you have **decreed**.'

The Witch has tried many times to enter the Castle to capture the Characters and **conceive** her own stories.

Page 2, Chapter 15 - The Party

Mr Henry looked a sorry sight, not at all his usual jolly self. He left his seat and walked over to the Wordsmith with his head bowed, **wringing his duster in much agitation.**

I really should find somewhere to sleep, Eloise thought, getting up from the chair stiffly. She wrapped her arms around herself, stepping around the glowing **embers** of the bonfire.

In the distance she could see dancing lights. She blinked, trying to stay awake and moved towards the **shimmer.**

She came across the place where the Great Witch has **succumbed** to the light of the Fireflies.

As she got closer she saw that the tree wasn't old at all, but **sprightly**, new and full of a fruit she had not seen before.

Eloise opened her eyes to the sound of her brothers' voices calling her. She was home. But she didn't move. With a smile on her face Eloise **snuggled** deeper into the tree and began planning who she wanted to be!