

Strega Nona

To Student & Teacher: This book bag is intended to be used by people who love good stories and fun activities that go along with them! You will find all the supplies you need in the bags marked 1-12. Do as many activities as you like!

- 1) Before reading the book, *Strega Nona*, do a “book walk”: look at the cover, flip through some of the pages, and look at the pictures. Then predict what you think the book will be about and what will happen. What do you think the problem will be? How about the solution? Where does it look like the story takes place? Who do you think the main characters are? You can also do this with the other Tomie dePaola books located in this book bag.

- 2) Read the book: *Strega Nona*.

- 3) Listen to the CD of *Strega Nona* and follow along in the book.

- 4) Big Anthony had a mess of pasta to eat at the end of the book. Now it's your turn to make your own pasta! Have an adult help you mix the red paint and glue together. Using the paintbrush given, put some red glue onto your paper plate. Take some pipe cleaners and stick them onto the glue. Now it looks like spaghetti and tomato sauce! How much spaghetti will you put on your plate?

- 5) Go to the author, Tomie dePaola's, website:
<http://www.tomie.com/main.html>. Here you can do many things including:
- A) Print & color pictures. On the left hand side of the screen, click on "resources" then "coloring pages". Here you will find illustrations by Tomie that you can print out and color on your own! (Crayons are available in bag #5).
 - B) Read what Tomie thinks of his own books. On the left hand side, click on "books" then "spotlight on...". Here you can read Tomie's comments on *Strega Nona*. If you'd like to see what he says about some of his other books, scroll down the page and click "go to spotlight on" the book of your choice!
 - C) Learn more about the author. On the left hand side, click on "About Tomie". You may click on "Biography", "People say...", and/or "FAQ". Did you find out anything interesting?
 - D) Write a letter to Tomie. His address can be found under "About Tomie" then "Contact Tomie". Tell him what you do and do not like about the book *Strega Nona*. Ask him any questions you have about the book or any of his other books. Make sure to address and stamp the envelope!
- 6) Use the puppets given to retell the story of *Strega Nona* or make up a new story.
- 7) Read another book by Tomie dePaola. How are the books alike? How are they different?

8) Play the board game.

DIRECTIONS: Shuffle then place the cards in a stack on the card spot located on the board. Choose a game piece and place it on the start space. The youngest player goes first. Draw a card. Some of the cards ask questions; if you can answer the question correctly, you move up the amount of spaces the card says. If you answer it incorrectly, you move back a certain amount of spaces or stay where you are depending on what the card says. Some of the cards tell you something that happens in the story and whether you get to move up or back. After you've taken your turn, the next person draws a card. The first one to reach the finish space wins!

9) Create a poem like the one from the book:

*Enough, enough, my pasta pot,
I have my pasta nice and hot.
So simmer down, my pot of clay
Until I'm hungry another day.*

Will your poem do something magical like Strega Nona's did? Will you add three kisses to the end of your poem or something else?

10) Strega Nona had the magic touch; the book says,

"She could cure a headache, with oil and water and a hairpin. She made special potions for the girls who wanted husbands. And she was very good at getting rid of warts."

Make a list of some other magical things you'd like to see Strega Nona do, then illustrate it.

- 11) Pantomime (act out without talking) a scene from the book and have a friend try to guess which part it is.

- 12) With a buddy, take turns rolling the story cubes. These cube questions can be directed to *Strega Nona* or one of Tomi dePaola's other books. Discuss what you think the answer would be to the question lying face-up on the cube, then listen to your buddy's answer. Compare your answers – how were they alike? How were they different? (The card on the inside of the bag offers suggestions for the supervising adult.)