



# Object

To create representation about signs and superstitions in England and Russia

# Subject

The most known and commonly used superstitions in England and Russia

# Hypothesis

Every country has its own signs and superstitions



# Why this theme was chosen by us?

- About signs and superstitions people argue for a long time, and the people absolutely different professions, miscellaneous nature and temperament.
- The problem about superstitions has much disputes, after all when considering these questions are touched such subject, as religion, psychology, cultural and spiritual life of the people, questions about predetermination of the fate and uncleanly power.
- The Second reason is the interest to culture and custom of the other country, in particular Great Britain. For people, studying English and have interest for culture this subject is particularly curious. The Knowledge of tradition, superstition of Great Britain help better to understand the English literature, reasons that or other event in the course of histories.
- In my opinion this subject is not so good studied.

# Our tasks were

**The main aim of my work:** to study and analyze superstitions of Great Britain.

**Our problems:**

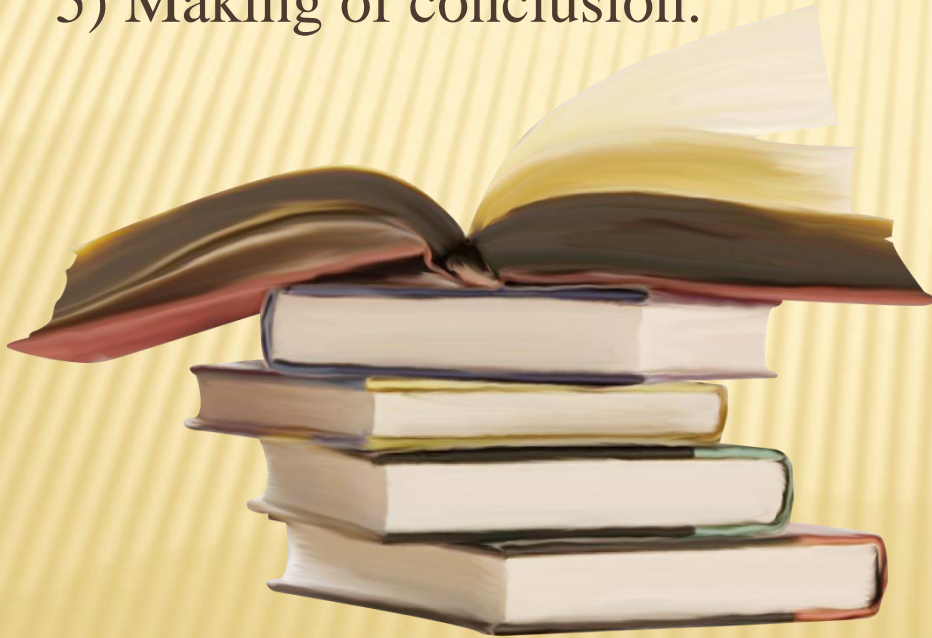
- 1) Make a list of superstitions in Russia and Great Britain.
- 2) Study and analyze different literature, denoted signs and superstitions in Russia and Great Britain.
- 3) Consider, compare and analyze the superstitions in two cultures: Russian and English.





# Our main methods :

- 1) Descriptive method
- 2) Collection of the material
- 3) Systematization of the material
- 4) Study and analyze
- 5) Making of conclusion.



I solve these problems through the following **methods**:

- 1) Work with literature about superstitions
- 2) Collection of information about superstitions in Internet
- 3) Analysis and comparison superstition in English and Russian culture
- 4) Pupils interrogation

# Glimpse of history

The word "sign" was formed from the words - to note, to notice. And it's no accident, because the root "met" means a label, to note something.

The first signs began to appear in ancient times, at a time when people first began to closely monitor the surrounding world, the behavior of animals, weather changes and the like.

Even such trifles as the color and the shape of the clouds gave people a reason to ponder. The most diverse phenomena entail thoughtful views of the inhabitants, what is happening and how.

So from generation to generation there were various signs connected with any sphere of a life of the person.



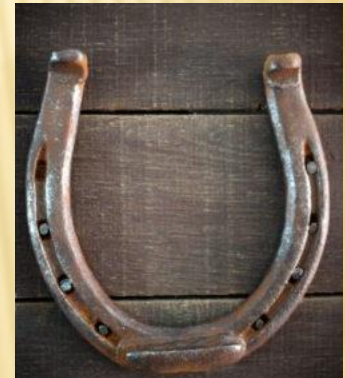
Belief in omens is one of the characteristics of people, compared to other species. The human brain prefers to write off any unexplained relationship to the impact of the underworld, and supernatural powers.



# There are different groups of superstitions:



- 1) Superstitions about animals
- 2) Funny superstitions
- 3) Wedding superstitions
- 4) Superstitions and weather
- 5) Household superstitions
- 6) Superstitions and products



# Superstitions about animals in England



Failure waits those who sees the bat. The crying of a bat is also a bad sign.



If the Brits will see a black and white bird (magpie), they rush to the tree and touch him with the words "touch wood", spit three times over the left shoulder and say "Good morning Mr. Magpie! How is your lady wife today? " By the way, meeting with only one magpie will bring misfortune, but if you see two, according to the British, waiting for the incredible luck.



If on the first day of the month in the morning aloud the words "rabbit, rabbit, rabbit" or "White Rabbit", then you will have good luck. Most importantly, it must be the first word that you speak out loud!



# Superstitions about animals in Russia



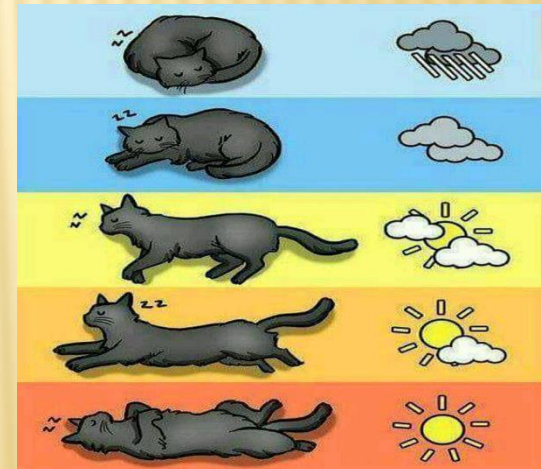
If birds begin to swim in puddle, it will be warm soon



Almost every Russian person is afraid of black cat. And try to do the trick or hold the jaws



Our smaller brothers can predict the weather very well



# Funny superstitions in England

If the flame of a candle flickers and then turns blue, there's a spirit in the room.



Numbers appearing in a certain order or sequence can also be seen as a good or bad omen, such as the dates 07/07/07 or 12/12/12.



It is also good luck if you see two cars of the same make, model and color within 60 seconds.





# Funny superstitions in Russia

When a spoon drops, it means a woman is soon coming, a knife – a man



A left palm itches, you will soon get the money



To have a pimple on your face means somebody loves you

# Wedding superstitions in England



Many newlyweds are waiting until the clock strikes traditionally, as their battle during the ceremony is believed to lead to misfortune.

The bride must have something new, something old, something borrowed, as well as something blue (for example, a garter) and a sixpence coin in a slipper.





# Wedding superstitions in Russia



If one of the married people drops the wedding ring before putting it on the finger, this is for the upcoming separation. In order to divert "trouble" in this case through a dropped ring, one must thread a thread, which will take away all the bad things, after which the ring can be put on the finger.



Products from pearls to the wedding should not be worn - to the tears of the bride.

Jewelry for the wedding ceremony can not also be worn, they are replaced with jewelry.



If the wedding dress has buttons, their number should be even.



# Household superstitions in England

The British don't like to walk under the stairs. Perhaps, this is due to the fact that in the 17 century criminals took place under the stairs on the way to gallows.



If you drop a table knife expect a male visitor, if you drop a fork – a female visitor.



Everyone knows that the weather in England, leaves much to be desired. That is why many English superstitions are closely related to weather conditions. The most common belief is that indoors you cannot disclose an umbrella.





# Household superstitions in Russia

Put clothes on - to  
the discord.



In the evening you can  
not take out the garbage  
- along with it money  
leaves.



You can not sit on the  
doorstep - you'll draw a  
disease. It's not worth to  
stay there

# Superstitions and products in England



When you finish eating an egg, you should poke a hole in the shell in the shape of a cross or just crush the whole thing.

If you need to protect a child from evil during the night, it's said to place a piece of bread under their pillow while they sleep. It may also be placed within their clothing in order to bring them good luck.



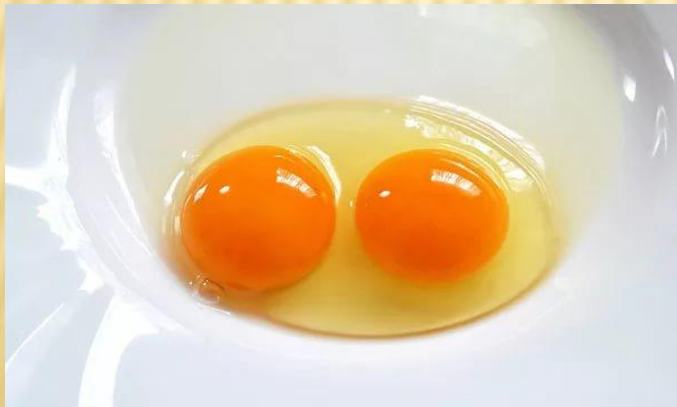


# Superstitions and products in Russia

Eggs are used to guess. Two yolks will mean that soon a wedding will take place. Egg without yolk is the worst sign and promise very bad consequences.



If you remove the crumbs from the table with your hand, then there will be no money.



If you stick pins into a small bulb and keep it on the windowsill, it will drive away the evil spirits from your house.

# OUR WORK



I ask my friends from all over the world such two questions:

- 1) Do you believe in any superstitions or signs?
- 2) What superstitions or signs do you believe in?



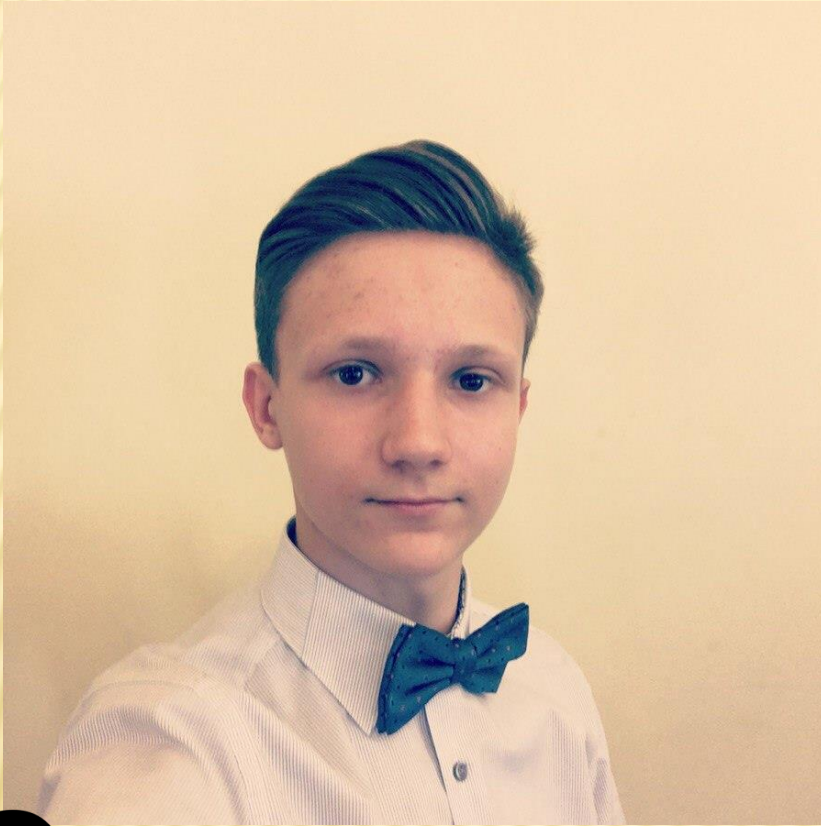




“There are many people, who believe in superstition. If to speak about me , I believe in that ,which connected with nature , and especially with weather. For example, a bright scarlet sunset means cold weather the next day.”



**Nastya, 8 class,  
Znamensk**



«Yeah, I believe in signs and superstitions. I reckon there is something supernatural that a human can't explain and discover. Well I believe in dreams and think that they can be predictable, as friend's previous experience showed...»



**Nikita, 10 class,  
Znamensk**





“I can't call myself a believer, but there are some signs that I still believe in. This happens purely by instinct, I don't even have time to think before doing something, in opposition to this belief, for example, walk around a black cat. One of the things I'm going to take is to sit down “on the track”: before every important trip, I'm going to find some place to do it.

Also, my mother taught me that you can not eat a crust of bread, because of this, you can leave your parents. Still not eating crusts...”

**Alsu, 11 class,  
Znamensk**



I also have some penfriends from other countries. I have found them through my tutor, because I'd like to improve my English and know interesting things about foreign countries.



“I believe in myself and God, all these superstitions are from the evil side”

**Yuliya, 31 years,  
Germany**



«I believe that superstition is a worthless, insignificant, thing. But someone pays a special attention to this, and as a result he falls into deception, into self-deception and, naturally, harms himself; it is mistaken.»



**Natali, 30 years, Australia**



# Conclusions

I made comparison of English and Russian superstitions and got these results:

- ✓ I can say that between English and Russian superstition there are many differences. Probably, one of the most important difference is interpretation of superstition, for example, when black cat runs across the road. If in Russia that means the failures, in England black cat symbolizes just inverse happiness and good luck.
- ✓ There are many superstitions in Great Britain, which have no analogue in Russia. For instance, such sign: If you walk under a ladder, you will have bad luck that means that if you are passed under stairway, that you will accompany the failures or say «white rabbits» at the first day of month.
- ✓ I want to say about English and Russian talisman, differing between themselves. For example, in Great Britain rabbits paw brings the good luck. The Rabbit is a symbol of the kindness, comfort, presents and protection. In Russia the similar talisman is the claw of bear. The Bear is the king of forest, and a person, carrying these talisman, has a power of this animal.





# My opinion



Personally, I do not see anything wrong with the signs, if, of course, they do not direct the actions of a person, but they are present as an insignificant element of life. Good - give confidence. Bad - make you be careful. And some have practical meaning. I think there are very few superstitious people, and everything is superstitious about trifles. And there's nothing wrong with that.



# The list of literature

1. Barbin A.V. The Superstitions. M.: Eksmo , 1999
2. Hoggarth S. Culture and traditions of Great Britain M.: White city, 2004
3. 3. Mathews B. Customs, traditions and superstitions in Great Britain, Prosweshenie, 2005.
4. Great thoughts of the great people .The Anthology of the aphorism. In 3-h t. M.: Ripol-classicist , 2000.
5. Lavrova R. Russian superstitions. M.: Prosweshenie, 2001.

## Internet-resource

1. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superstition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superstition)
2. [www.michellehenry.fr/supersti.htm](http://www.michellehenry.fr/supersti.htm)
3. [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com) › ... › Dictionary
4. [www.jstor.org/stable/1413662](http://www.jstor.org/stable/1413662)
5. [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)



“If people are superstitious, and believe in the approach of trouble because of the sign, it often happens: but possibly more by coincidence than actually due to the omen.”

(James Ward)

