

Chapter 1 : Describe some superstitions in the book "Things Fall Apart." | eNotes

Books shelved as superstition: The Tiger's Wife by TÃ©a Obreht, What the Moon Said by Gayle Rosengren, Tall Story by Candy Gourlay, The Cove by Ron Rash.

All these two book series feature dogs. Johnston also writes paranormal romance novels for Harlequin Nocturne including Alpha Force miniseries, which is centered on a covert military shape shifter unit. Johnson serves as an inactive transactional lawyer and a full time author. The Superstation Mystery Series is centered on Rory Chasen who ends up becoming the owner of a pet boutique in Destiny, a fictional town located in California. While in Destiny, Rory realizes that superstition is very real especially after her father died shortly after walking beneath a ladder. Superstition Mystery Awards Despite the fact that the Superstition Mystery series is yet to receive any literary award, Linda Johnson is the recipient of the Robert Fish memorial award. Rory is more than excited that Gemma Grayfield, her best friend will be paying her a visit to her new home. Gemma has the opportunity of seeing the new store that Rory is now in charge of, the Lucky Dog Boutique. Upon her arrival, Gemma is fascinated when sees how quaint and unique Destiny is; Destiny is absorbed in superstition. Gemma not only loves the town, but also the town also loves her as well including two men. Nonetheless, when one of the two men who love her is found dead, Gemma finds herself at the center of an investigation, which she happens to be the main suspect. All of a sudden, Destiny is not looking that sweet anymore. The previous night, Gemma was involved in an altercation with the deceased and from the look of things, Gemma might be pinned down for a murder that she did not commit. If you are a fan of cozy mystery series especially those that have dogs or animals in them, then you are going to enjoy Knock on Wood mystery series. Lost Under a Ladder: The second installment in the Superstition Mystery series by author Linda O. It is also an unusual premise to a cozy mystery series, which is based in a town that believes in superstition. Upon her arrival, Destiny realises that Destiny is indeed the perfect place for her to do her research on superstitions. Due to the fact that Rory is not a believer in things associated with superstitions, she can only wonder whether there is something more to the said superstitions. It does not take long before Rory learns that life in Destiny is much different with the life in Los Angeles. As Rory and Pluckie her dog walk through the town, the dog is somehow attracted to Lucky Dog boutique and in the process pulls Rory to the boutique. Bite the Biscuit is the first installment in the Bakery and Biscuit mystery series. In Bite the Biscuit, author Linda O. Johnston introduces the readers to Carrie Kennersly, a veterinarian technician who is widely known for her tendency to offer healthy dog treats at the local clinic where she serves. Thus, when the leading local bakery moves away, Carrie decides to take the opportunity and purchases the businesses. The newest book is Unlucky Charms and was released on October, 8th

Chapter 2 : Browse subject: Superstition | The Online Books Page

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This time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere can be particularly spooky compared to the romantic icy winters, the hopeful springs and the sometimes scorching summers. Not so long ago, before we could just pop down to the supermarket and buy our parsnips, potatoes and pork, many people were self sufficient farmers, expected to provide all of their food by themselves. So, their fate was often left up to the weather and the seasons. Understandably many of the superstitions existed because of worries about lack of food for the winter. Of course, before science helped us understand many of the odd occurrences that happen in the world, people were left up to their own devices to try and explain what was happening all around them. So, here are six strange superstitions about Autumn that used to be believed. This being as fruits need a little bit of warmth in order to ripen – so warm autumn and ripe fruit meant warm winter. Our ancestors thought that if ducks decided to stay late in the year before migrating south, it meant that the autumn had been particularly warm, which in turn meant that the winter was going to be warm too and will come later than expected. Onions A strange superstition again which comes from farming and harvests. It was said that if an onion had thick skin at the end of Autumn, it was going to be a particularly cold winter. If the harvested onion had thin skin, this meant that the winter was going to be a warm one. Like Copernicus read the stars, our farming ancestors read the onions. Winters were particularly scary for our not-so-distant ancestors because of the impending possibility that they could have frozen or starved to death. Many flowers, or budding plants that bloomed later in the year were most certainly NOT a good sign. A cherry on top – of the casket If a cherry tree bloomed in Autumn this was terrible juju for you, your friends, or your family members. If you saw the juicy red fruits making an appearance late in the year, this meant that unfortunately someone was going to pop their clogs. Not so rosey apparitions Usually roses are associated with love, marriage and generally positive things, depending on how you look at it. However, in the West of Scotland a white rose blooming in the autumn was not a good sign and signified an impending death – but a red rose blooming in Autumn signified that there would be an early marriage. It is said that if caught on the first day of autumn, a falling leaf could help you avoid a cold or sickness throughout the whole of winter. Some people also said that it was good luck and others that you could make a wish if you caught one. Central heating exists, fridges and freezers have been invented and canned food means that we always have back-up if we need it.

Chapter 3 : Very superstitious | Books | The Guardian

LibraryThing Review User Review - setnahkt - LibraryThing. Very disappointing. Superstition is a meandering exposition of the personal philosophy of Robert Park, not a serious attempt at debunking or criticism of belief.

Buy A Pocket Guide to Superstitions at the Guardian bookshop Superstition is a pretty slippery concept, and we need to examine what we mean by it. But not every irrational belief gets labelled as superstition, so we need to look a bit closer. One of the key characteristics of superstition is a belief in the existence of luck, as a real force in life, and that luck can be predicted by signs, and can be controlled or influenced by particular actions or words. Other key elements include a belief in fate, which again can be predicted and manipulated, and a belief in magic - the idea that people can be harmed or protected by spells, charms, amulets, curses, witchcraft, and so on. Superstitions are also unofficial knowledge, in that they run counter to the official teachings of religion, school, science, and government, and this is precisely why - even in the 21st century - many of us like to hold onto a few, to show that we are not totally ruled by science and hard fact. We also listened to people on buses, on the radio, in the playground, in the supermarket, and so on, to learn what is being said and done now. We examined statements, and asked questions. It turns out that Friday 13th is a Victorian invention. What we ended up with was a mass of material on the subject, which was organised and analysed to provide data for informed judgements instead of guesses. The first principle of the historical approach is that if a superstition cannot be found before, say, 1,000 years before, the idea that it has survived from an ancient fertility ritual or pre-Christian sacrifice seems a bit far-fetched. If it existed in that time, how come nobody noticed it? And if there is no evidence for its existence, how can we base our theory of origin on it? If it had existed underground for all that time it would probably have changed beyond all recognition anyway imagine a game of Chinese whispers lasting for 1,000 years, so an examination of the modern version is unlikely to tell us anything about the original. Our historical approach enabled us to make estimates of the age, development, and relative popularity of particular beliefs, and start to make general statements about how superstitions function. Occasionally, our research also threw light on the question of how superstitions arose in the first place. One thing which became obvious when we compared a whole mass of reported superstitions was that most are based on a small number of principles which are repeated time and time again in different guises, and the formulae can tell us a great deal. The concern for good beginnings is reflected in the first-footing customs at New Year, giving a baby a coin to ensure future good fortune, getting out of bed on the correct side to start the day well, and so on. The world of superstition is essentially a symbolic one, although in most cases only on a very simple level. Money in the pocket at a key moment for example, when hearing the first cuckoo in spring stands for prosperity in the coming year, whereas an empty purse symbolises want. A piece of coal carried by a first footer represents warmth and comfort; an upturned bowl in a seafaring family stands for an upturned ship. Another conclusion that is clearly supported by a historical review is that we, as a society, are much less superstitious than we were 100, or even 50, years ago. Although few people myself included can claim to be completely free of superstition, many of us only play at it nowadays. This claim can be demonstrated in several different ways, most notably by asking someone to name 10 superstitions; most people will not be able to get beyond five without really thinking hard about it, whereas a century ago, the average person would have known dozens. Regional differences have been largely ironed out, and the same beliefs are found all over the country. But the real acid test is that however superstitious a person may think they are, few act on their superstitions in the way previous generations did. Who would accept being turned down for a job because they had red hair or the wrong sun sign? We might try a traditional cure like a key down the back for a nosebleed, but who would accept a verbal charm rather than hospital treatment to stop real bleeding? Who would tell a young mother that her baby will die if she weighs it, or lets it see its reflection in a mirror? And so on, through hundreds of different superstitions which were believed and acted upon only a century ago. But why were people so superstitious? It is usually assumed that superstition is the result of fear and uncertainty - an attempt to control the parts of life that are in fact beyond our understanding or control. This is largely true, and there is some evidence that superstition is more

prevalent in people involved in dangerous occupations, and increases in times of particular uncertainty, such as during a war. But there are other forces involved. Superstitions are passed on from person to person, often within a family, and take on the authority of tradition. The main reason for the decline of superstition in modern times is that many of these uncertainties have declined - whole areas of life, from the trivial to the life-threatening, have had the mystery and danger removed from them to a large extent. Childhood diseases still exist, and parents still have worries, but nothing compared with a century ago. Changes in everyday technology have brought almost instant death to many beliefs. The light-bulb and the radiator provide little scope for superstition, or romance, whereas the candle and the open fire had plenty. Baking bread, turning the bed, churning butter, washing by hand, sweeping the house, laying out a corpse in the front room, killing a pig - all these activities were highly charged with beliefs, but have changed beyond recognition, or disappeared from our lives completely. How many of us know the phases of the moon? It could be argued that superstitious impulses in society are not dead, but are simply resurfacing in the guise of alternative medicines, unofficial pick-and-mix religions, astrology, conspiracy theories, and new-age cults and gurus of various kinds. But one major area where most of us can claim to be less prone to irrational thinking is in the matter of witchcraft. In this area at least, people nowadays have more sense.

Chapter 4 : 6 Strange Autumn Superstitions | The Book of Everyone Blog

superstition, an irrational belief or practice resulting from ignorance or fear of the unknown. The validity of superstitions is based on belief in the power of magic and witchcraft and in such invisible forces as spirits and demons.

Myths Superstitious Beliefs and Religion The borderline between these two words is very thin and often it has been observed that they tend to overlap each other. Religious believers have often seen other religions as superstitions. Likewise, atheists and agnostics may regard religious beliefs as superstitious. The Roman Catholic Church considers superstitions to be sinful in the sense that it denotes a lack of trust in God and, as such, is a violation of the Ten Commandments. Same is the case with Islam; it prohibits following such beliefs that are not in accordance with Quran and Hadiths. Islam refers such false beliefs as the way of Shaitan Satan or Demon. Do you know why people tend to become superstitious? If we study the advent of the superstitions we can find an answer to this question. People feel very desperate to find reasons for all the misfortunes they come across. Being superstitious helps them to hide their mistakes by blaming luck, which according to them no one can control except God. The less control people have over their lives, the more likely they are to try to regain control through mental gymnastics. Feelings of control are so essential to people that a lack of control is menacing. While some misperceptions can be bad or lead one astray, they are awfully common and most likely satisfy a deep and enduring psychological need. Some more reasons which make people superstitious are as follows: Within this framework one can differentiate between three different types of luck: Constitutional luck, that is, luck with factors that cannot be changed. Place of birth and genetic constitution are typical examples. Circumstantial luck - with factors that are haphazardly brought on. Accidents and epidemics are typical examples. Ignorance luck, that is, luck with factors one does not know about. Examples can be identified only in hindsight. What causes Good Luck? From centuries people have believed in good fortune and widely agree that luck can be influenced through spiritual means by performing certain rituals or by avoiding certain circumstances. One such activity is prayer, a religious practice in which this belief is particularly strong. Others associate luck with a strong sense of superstition, that is, a belief that certain taboo or blessed actions will influence how fortune favors them for the future. List of Good Luck Superstitions If you sneeze it means someone is missing you. If your right hand itches, you will earn money. If you find a four-leaf clover, you will have good luck. If you see a horseshoe which was lost, you will have good luck. If you throw rice on a new bride and groom, they will have so many children. If you dream about a white cat, you will have good luck. If your right ear itches, someone is speaking well of you. You can hang up garlic in your house for good luck. If you put a mirror just across the door, before you will have good luck. If you put the sugar into the cup first, the tea, you will have good luck. If you step on your shadow, it brings you luck. If you blow out all the candles on your birthday cake in one blow, you will get whatever you want. Broken Mirror What causes Bad Luck? To begin with, we have to admit that sometimes events are just random, or at least with causes beyond our ability to understand at the moment. It is a common trait among majority of the people. Many people point out the activities and the circumstances for their bad luck, but they cannot see what their own contribution to their situation is. Blaming and excuse makes a terrible approach to life. It eventually makes looking for causes outside the control of oneself automatic. It is difficult for such a person to ever recognize the personal changes they need to make. It is a big part of what causes bad luck, because it gets in the way of the three steps needed for success:

Chapter 5 : Superstition: Belief in the Age of Science - Robert L. Park - Google Books

"The book contains explanations for many familiar superstitions but also some unfamiliar ones, for instance, Max documents how the humble window blind has its origins in Norse mythology and an Tasmania Times "I did enjoy this book and learned so much.

If your right ear itches, someone is speaking well of you. If your left ear itches, someone is speaking ill of you. Left for love and right for spite: Left or right, good at night. EYE If your right eye twitches there will soon be a birth in the family. If the left eye twitches there will soon be a death in the family. To cure a sty, stand at a crossroads and recite Sty, sty, leave my eye Take the next one coming by. If it flies off the hand the wish will be granted. Fingernail cuttings should be saved, burned, or buried. FISH A fish should always be eaten from the head toward the tail. If you count the number of fish you caught, you will catch no more that day. FLAG It brings bad luck for a flag to touch the ground. The day you find the first flower of the season can be used as an omen: Monday means good fortune, Tuesday means greatest attempts will be successful, Wednesday means marriage, Thursday means warning of small profits, Friday means wealth, Sunday means excellent luck for weeks. FOOT If the bottom of your right foot itches, you are going to take a trip. FORK To drop a fork means a man is coming to visit. Any ship that sails on Friday will have bad luck. You should never start a trip on Friday or you will meet misfortune. Never start to make a garment on Friday unless you can finish it the same day. The two unlucky entities combine to make one super unlucky day. There is a Norse myth about 12 gods having a dinner party at Valhalla, their heaven. In walked the uninvited 13th guest, the mischievous Loki. Once there, Loki arranged for Hoder, the blind god of darkness, to shoot Balder the Beautiful, the god of joy and gladness, with a mistletoe-tipped arrow. Balder died and the Earth got dark. The whole Earth mourned. There is a Biblical reference to the unlucky number Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest to the Last Supper. A particularly bad Friday the 13th occurred in the middle ages. On a Friday the 13th in , King Philip of France arrested the revered Knights Templar and began torturing them, marking the occasion as a day of evil. In ancient Rome, witches reportedly gathered in groups of The 13th was believed to be the devil. Both Friday and the number 13 were once closely associated with capital punishment. In British tradition, Friday was the conventional day for public hangings, and there were supposedly 13 steps leading up to the noose. It is traditionally believed that Eve tempted Adam with the apple on a Friday. Tradition also has it that the Flood in the Bible, the confusion at the Tower of Babel, and the death of Jesus Christ all took place on Friday. Numerologists consider 12 a "complete" number. There are 12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 labors of Hercules, 12 tribes of Israel, and 12 apostles of Jesus. More than 80 percent of high-rises lack a 13th floor. Many airports skip the 13th gate. Airplanes have no 13th aisle. Hospitals and hotels regularly have no room number Italians omit the number 13 from their national lottery. On streets in Florence, Italy, the house between number 12 and 14 is addressed as 12 and a half. Many cities do not have a 13th Street or a 13th Avenue In France, socialites known as the quatorziens fourteeners once made themselves available as 14th guests to keep a dinner party from an unlucky fate. Many triskaidekaphobes, as those who fear the unlucky integer are known, point to the ill-fated mission to the moon, Apollo FROG A frog brings good luck to the house it enters. The dried body of a frog worn in a silk bag around the neck averts epilepsy and other fits. If a boy, he should go into the ministry. Cut your hair on Good Friday to prevent headaches in the year to come A person who dies on Good Friday will go right to heaven. Shed no blood on Good Friday, work no wood, hammer no nail. HAIR Pulling out a gray or white hair will cause ten more to grow in its place. HAND If the palm of your right hand itches it means you will soon be getting money. If the palm of your left hand itches it means you will soon be paying out money. In most of Europe protective horseshoes are placed in a downward facing position, but in some parts of Ireland and Britain people believe that the shoes must be turned upward or "the luck will run out. ITCH If your nose itches you will soon be kissed by a fool. Your mouth is in danger. IVY Ivy growing on a house protects the inhabitants from witchcraft and evil. A knife placed under the bed during childbirth will ease the pain of labor. If a friend gives you a knife, you should give him a coin, or your friendship will soon be broken. It will cause

a quarrel if knives are crossed at the table. It is bad luck to close a pocket knife unless you were the one who opened it.

Chapter 6 : Notes on The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Themes

Superstition by David Ambrose Ambrose uses an actual experiment carried out in Toronto Canada by a team of Parapsychologists known as the "Phillip Experiment" as a platform and structural foundation for his novel.

I must admit the best books written and compiled are those that serve us as guidebooks. Sheridan became a world renowned expert on eruptive volcanics. He studied the Superstition and Goldfield volcanic fields for many years while at Arizona State University. This fine book gave information about the trails and some of the interesting points along the trails. The book also presented a little of the history of the area, but primarily described the forest service trail system. Reading this book would prepare the average outdoor person for the rigors of hiking the wilderness area. Carlson and Stewart provide preparatory material in their book on survival and other cautions one should take before embarking upon a wilderness experience. This book can be excellent information for the hikers who experience the area for the first time. I would suggest anyone using this book adhere to the information closely because Jack Carlson and Elizabeth Stewart are very knowledgeable about the Superstition Wilderness Area. Their experiences dates back more than thirty years and they certainly know what they are talking about. Any person using the Superstition Wilderness Area system trails should have copies of both their books, Hikers Guide to the Superstition Wilderness, and Superstition Trails East, The books also include interesting historical highlights of the area including mining and ranching history. Their books include numerous historical photographs of the region, detailed maps and map information. Area search and rescue groups are constantly dealing with lost hikers and overdue hikers in the Superstition Wilderness Area. Presently there are four men missing in the Superstition Wilderness Area. One Colorado man has been missing since December 20, , and three Utah men have been missing since July 6, . All of them allegedly, according to family, planned their trips carefully for their trips into the Superstition Wilderness Area. The three Utah men parked their car at First Water and hiked into the mountains and vanished. Not one single clue had been found that can be associated with these men. I sincerely believed if they had use maps and guide maps properly and prepared themselves for the rigors of this mountain wilderness they would have been found a long time ago. Some people just wonder aimlessly about this vast wilderness with no maps or guidebooks. I sincerely believe maps and guidebooks are an important deterrent in preventing someone from becoming lost or disoriented. Of course you can never overlook the importance of water. During the summer months when temperatures exceed degrees a gallon a day is the very minimal amount you need to survive. I would highly recommend them to anyone using the wilderness or interested in the history of the wilderness.

Chapter 7 : The Cancer of Superstition - Wikipedia

Provides an abbreviated survey of current beliefs and practices, which are traceable, for the most part, to primitive, and other symbolic origins and expressions. k Analyzes superstitions concerning birds, bees, human hair, snakes, marriage, pregnancy, food, dreams, disease, water and drowning, and numbers.

There was a deep belief that animals, nature and objects held a connection to spirits and the spirit world. In order to have a feeling of appeasing these forces, different behaviors or customs arose that would dictate a favorable fate and good fortune. Many superstitions have come from mythology, where omens were common. Superstitions live on because they have been passed on from generation to generation. Even today, where direct evidence and facts outweigh superstitious beliefs, there are probably very few people who can categorically deny that they do not at least secretly harbor a slight belief in one or two superstitions. The term for a fear of Friday the 13th is paraskevidekatriaphobia. Across many cultures, the belief that the number 13 is evil and brings bad luck is so strong that many hotels, office and apartment buildings do not have or recognize a 13th floor, airports usually do not have a 13th gate and many people stay home on Friday the 13th. The Chinese and ancient Egyptians believed the number 13 brings good fortune. The Egyptians believed in 12 stages in life toward spiritual enlightenment. The 13th stage was the eternal afterlife. In this sense, death was not a place of fear, but a place of high regard for the afterlife. One theory about why this negative belief about the number 13 exists is that Judas, who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th person to be seated at the Last Supper. In , a group of New Yorkers set out to debunk this and all other superstitions and formed a group called the Thirteen Club. Its first meeting took place on Friday the 13th at 8: To get into the room each guest walked under a ladder and sat down around piles of spilled salt. Needless to say, all of the guests survived. For the next 40 years, Thirteen Clubs cropped up all over the U. The number seven is most often associated with good luck. It is believed that the importance of the number seven began in ancient times. During that time, before the invention of the telescope, only seven planets were visible in the skies – the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter. This may explain why many ancient cultures adopted seven gods or deities. The ancient Greeks thought the number seven to be extremely lucky. Pythagoreans considered the number seven to be a perfect number. There were seven ancient Roman and Egyptian Gods. Hinduism recognizes seven major chakras energy centers in the human body. The Arabs built seven holy temples. In Japanese tradition, there are seven lucky gods that bring good fortune. There is also a belief that seven ancient Buddhas existed. References to the number seven appear many times in the Bible Old Testament. As far as the Christian Bible New Testament , examples of the number seven are abundant: Even to gamblers the number seven is lucky. Three sevens make a blackjack, a big payout on a slot machine and a winner in the game of craps. The opposite sides on dice add up to seven. The number seven has been, and still is, universal. Here are more some examples: Also, it is believed that the seventh child of a seventh child will be psychically gifted. For the most part, the number seven is associated with good luck. However, in the Chinese culture it symbolizes death. Also, breaking a mirror is thought to bring seven years of bad luck. This superstition may have stemmed from the Romans who believed that people underwent a physical and spiritual regeneration every seven years and that the mirror was a reflection of the soul. However, given the examples listed here, it is almost a sure thing that the number seven is a lucky, protective and positive symbol for most people. More so than bringing bad luck, it is an invitation to let the devil in. Origins of this superstition may date back to ancient times, as salt was used in early rituals and practices. In many cultures it was believed to be a powerful magical substance. At one time salt was a very expensive trading commodity, and spilling it was considered wasteful and frowned upon. This could have brought fear to the person who spilled it. It is believed that good spirits exist on the right-hand side and that the devil is seated at the left-hand side of God. So, when we spill salt, it is important to throw the salt with our right hand over our left shoulder to keep the devil, evil and bad luck off of our backs and behind us. In another version, it is believed that if a black cat walks toward you, it will bring you good luck and if it walks away from you, it takes good luck away. In ancient Egypt, all cats, including black ones, were highly regarded and well protected from death and injury. It is customary in

England and Ireland that black cats bring good luck. During the Middle Ages, black cats were seen as evil demons and companions to witches and that they should be destroyed. Because they were seen as demons, it was believed that a black cat crossing your path would block your connection to God and the entrance to heaven. The paranoia surrounding this superstition caused the destruction of a lot of black cats, as well as the killing or severe punishment of anyone who took care of them. If the reflection looked distorted, it was believed that disaster would strike. Distorting a mirror, glass or water-filled bowl damaged the reflection, and thus, the soul. The ancient Greeks, Hebrews and Egyptians produced mirrors made out of silver, gold, brass or bronze, which were unbreakable. These early mirrors were considered extremely valuable and possessed mystical attributes. Almost universally, this superstition includes that the bad luck would last for seven years. In 15th century Venice, Italy, when glass mirrors backed by silver coating were first produced, they were prohibitively expensive. Servants of the wealthy, who most often would be in the position of cleaning or moving a mirror, could never afford its replacement, if broken. During the mids, when England and France were finally able to manufacture mirrors inexpensively, the superstition about bad luck and broken mirrors was already solidified in the culture. It is noted that one way to avoid the bad luck associated with breaking a mirror is to take the broken pieces and bury them underground and under the moonlight. The origins of this superstition are not totally agreed upon, but some say it can be traced back to the early Egyptians. Back then, umbrellas protected people mostly nobility or religious leaders from the heat of the sun, not from the rain and were thought to ward of spirits who might do them harm. To open one inside or even in the shade would offend the God of the Sun. It was also believed that the Egyptian goddess Nut Nuit enveloped the sky like a huge umbrella. The beautiful man-made umbrellas were fashioned with peacock feathers and papyrus and represented the goddess. Because of their religious significance, they were usually held only over the noble classes. The shadow that surrounded the person underneath the umbrella was considered sacred, and if someone other than the nobility stepped on this space, it was considered sacrilegious. Others believe that the bad luck associated with opening an umbrella indoors came to be in 18th century London, the time when waterproof umbrellas with metal spokes were popularized. These umbrellas were awkward to open and were extremely large in size, which could cause injury to people or break objects if opened inside a house or in a small space. This could cause anger or arguments among family or friends, which was considered bad luck, or at least something to be avoided. Another variation on the superstition is that if rain is predicted on a given day, take an umbrella with you and it will not rain. And if you leave the umbrella behind, it will definitely rain. It has also been noted that bad luck does not occur if the umbrella has first been opened outdoors and then brought inside to dry. And that bad luck is associated with an umbrella if it is the color black, was given as a gift, has never been used outside in the rain, is opened on a ship, or is dropped on the floor. One origin of this superstition dates back to medieval times, in which the ladder symbolized the gallows – a place where persons were hanged. So when someone walked under a ladder, it was believed that he would surely face his own death by hanging. And because people were hung at the top rungs of the ladder, it was thought that their spirits resided within the triangle that was formed by the leaning ladder, in other words, it formed a haunted area. Ladders were typically leaned up against the gallows and used to assist the person in charge of removing the dead bodies. By walking under the ladder during that time, it was assumed that a dead body could fall on you, causing injury or death. Another origin of this superstition dates back to ancient Egypt. The Egyptians believed strongly in the power of the pyramids. Even a ladder leaning against a wall symbolized a pyramid because of its triangular shape. If someone walked under it, they believed that the power of the sacred pyramid was broken. Yet another early belief about ladders was that when leaned triangularly against a wall, it signified the Holy Trinity – the Father God, the Son Jesus and the Holy Ghost the spirit of Jesus. The action of walking under the ladder was considered blasphemy and a desecration of God. Additionally, it would invite the devil in. There are ways to undo the seemingly disastrous consequences. By walking back through the ladder, you can undo the harm and secure a second chance of better luck. Also, crossing your fingers until you see a dog can fix the situation. The best belief is common sense. Jarring a ladder in any way might cause you to get hit by a falling object, or cause someone already on it to fall off. It is best to walk around it to ensure a better day. If you choose to walk under one, use the crossing fingers method stated above. It is usually

associated with the saying: In the mid-th century, it was common to tell children that if they stepped on any cracks in the pavement they would be eaten for lunch by bears waiting for them around the corner. Another belief surrounding this superstition is that the number of cracks stepped on indicates the number of bones your mother would break.

Chapter 8 : Superstitions in Huckleberry Finn: Examples of Satire

Superstitions date back to early man's attempt to explain Nature and his own existence. There was a deep belief that animals, nature and objects held a connection to spirits and the spirit world. In order to have a feeling of appeasing these forces, different behaviors or customs arose that would dictate a favorable fate and good fortune.

Superstition Chapters Superstition 1: While religion is a routine obligation, superstition is the true faithful belief of Tom and many others. The various cures for warts that Tom and Huck discuss cannot be questioned, and there is always an explanation when they fail. Dead cats are especially important to the boys, as they are very powerful and have many uses. Although the trick Tom uses to find his marbles fails, he cannot believe that the superstition is false. Instead, he seeks another superstition a witch to explain it. Even though it takes three tries to find his lost marble a minute later, the fact that he found it is proof to him that the tricks of superstition work. Tom and Huck at first believe that the howling dog means they will die. When they see it howling at Muff Potter, they understand that he is in trouble, not them. Since they never doubt such things, they know nothing they can do will change his fate. Chapters Superstition 4: The adults of St. Petersburg are just as superstitious as the children. Instead of coming to the proper conclusion, that Injun Joe is guilty, they believe it is because Muff Potter is close to the body. In this way, they tailor the superstition to their own needs. Another use of dead cats is mentioned here: Obviously, the boys performing the rituals with the dead cats discover nothing close to the truth. Tom, who normally has a lot of faith in this purpose of dead cats, avoids participating in the ritual, perhaps because he knows more than any dead cat could possible tell, or perhaps because he believes that his own knowledge of the murder will be revealed. Aunt Polly, religious as she is, has her own form of superstition. Even when the magazines contradict themselves from issue to issue, Aunt Polly goes on believing what they say. Tom gets very excited by the worm crawling across his leg and its promise of new, fancy clothes. Here the superstition serves something directly important to Tom, since the night before they boys were discussing the fancy pirate clothes they would be getting soon. Chapters Superstition 8: When he loses them, he refuses to go into the water out of fear. Chapters Superstition 9: Again, Tom and Huck use superstitious beliefs to solve a problem. They fall back on superstition rather than admit they are wrong. Huck is more simple about superstition than Tom, and fears ghosts. Tom, on the other hand, can explain certain superstitions away when they get in the way of his fun, tailoring his beliefs to his needs as the adults to. However, when they come near the haunted-house, neither boy can help but get very scared and avoid the house and its ghosts as much as possible. Chapters Superstition He uses one superstition to cover up his fear of another. Alive, they feared him, and there is no reason to stop fearing him after his death. This superstition comes close to ending their treasure-hunting mission, and Tom cannot talk Huck out of it. He even begins to believe they are in danger. It is only when they realize that the cross on the wall of the cave will protect them that they can go on.

Chapter 9 : SAGE Books - Superstition and the Supernatural

*The Origins of Popular Superstitions and Customs (), by T. Sharper Knowlson (HTML at calendrierdelascience.com)
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