

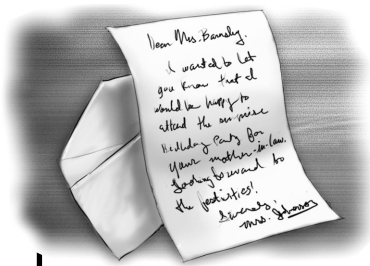
# ★WATCHAMACALLIT WIZARDRY★



## Supplemental Activities Packet

This packet contains classroom activity suggestions and worksheets to reinforce concepts from the Playbook® story and to go beyond the story into the content areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Health, etc., as well as Character Development.

Activities range in age appropriateness and skill level so that teachers can choose activities that best suit their particular students. An Answer Key is provided on the last page.



# ★WATCHAMACALLIT BALDERDASH★

## FOR TEACHER USE ONLY

**Classroom Activity:** In Watchamacallit Wizardry, Billy is very interested in strange, complicated words, but he doesn't always figure out what they mean right away! Play a variation of Balderdash in your classroom, using unfamiliar words which Billy might want to research if he heard them. Divide your students into groups, cut out the words and definitions provided below, and hand out different words to each group. Instruct the students to write three made-up definitions for each word on a separate sheet of paper, in addition to the true definition. If there is time, have the students write sentences using the word. They should write a different sentence for each of the correct and made up definitions. Have each group ask the definition of their words of another group, giving their four answers as options, and reading their sentences. If the group answers correctly, they earn a point. After all the words' definitions have been asked and each group has had a turn to answer, the group with the most points wins, and everyone learns!

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>sweven</b><br>dream, vision                       | <b>tumid</b><br>swollen, bulging               | <b>tunicle</b><br>type of clothing worn by bishops                             | <b>vanaspati</b><br>type of vegetable oil                |
| <b>tullibee</b><br>type of fish                      | <b>dibble</b><br>to drink like a duck          | <b>groak</b><br>to watch people eat while hoping they will offer you some food | <b>nelipot</b><br>someone walking without shoes          |
| <b>armsaye</b><br>the armhole in a piece of clothing | <b>chanking</b><br>food that has been spit out | <b>furphy</b><br>a portable water container                                    | <b>puricle</b><br>space between thumb and pointer finger |
| <b>mollycoddle</b><br>to spoil                       | <b>osculate</b><br>to kiss                     | <b>skirr</b><br>to move rapidly  | <b>daddock</b><br>center of a rotten tree                |
| <b>kalon</b><br>beauty that is more than skin deep   | <b>rabiator</b><br>a violent man               | <b>virose</b><br>poisonous   | <b>brontide</b><br>a sound like distant thunder          |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

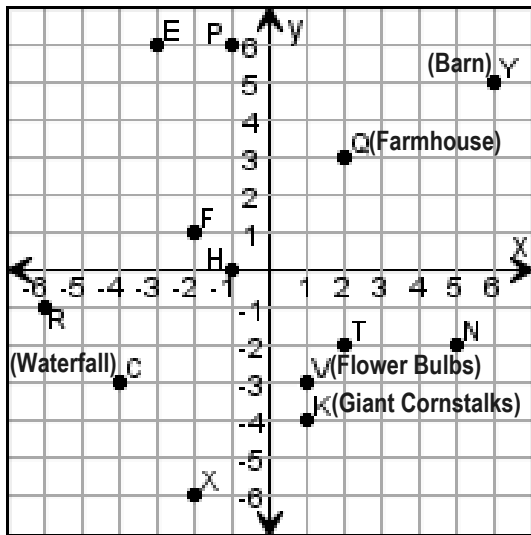
# ★MYSTERIOUS MATHEMATICS★



**Part A:** Solve the following math problems and write the answers on the lines provided.

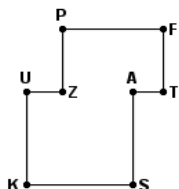
- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. $9,563 \div y = 131$ | $y =$ _____ |
| 2. $n \div 20 = 3,219$  | $n =$ _____ |
| 3. $88x = 65,472$       | $x =$ _____ |
| 4. $5,785 \div t = 89$  | $t =$ _____ |
| 5. $18y = 9,630$        | $y =$ _____ |

**Part B:** The following graph shows the locations of various spots and amazing sights on Mac Verrill's farm. Write the coordinates of each location on the lines below.  
Example: F (-2, 1)



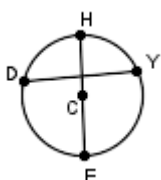
- Giant Cornstalks \_\_\_\_\_
- Barn \_\_\_\_\_
- Flower Bulbs \_\_\_\_\_
- Waterfall \_\_\_\_\_
- Farmhouse \_\_\_\_\_

**Part C:** Use the following diagrams and information to solve the problems.



1.  $\overline{UK}=71$  in.,  $\overline{UZ}=26$  in.,  $\overline{AS}=71$  in.,  $\overline{KS}=77$  in.,  $\overline{PZ}=48$  in.,  $\overline{PF}=73$  in.,  $\overline{FT}=48$  in.,  $\overline{AT}=22$  in. Find the area and perimeter of the polygon on the left.

\_\_\_\_\_



2.  $\overline{HE}=50.7$  ft. Using **3.14** for  $\pi$ , find the circumference to the nearest tenth.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# ★Magical WORLDS★

**Watchamacallit Wizardry** can be considered part of the **fantasy genre of literature**, which often shares themes with older **fairy tales**. Modern fantasy literature contains elements of magic and the supernatural. Stories can be set in a world that seems mostly like our own, or an imaginary world that is clearly set apart from today's real world. Fairy tales are different from fantasy stories because they were originally told orally, passed on as folk tales in the past, and the audience may have believed that the magic included in them was possible.

One fantasy work that helped popularize the genre is J.R.R. Tolkien's ***The Lord of the Rings***, published in 1955. The story is set in its own world, complete with culture, history, and language. It draws many of its themes from ancient Norse, Germanic, and Finnish mythology, showing the close ties between fairy tales and modern fantasy. Another example from the same time period is C.S. Lewis' ***Narnia*** books, in which children travel from a "real world" setting to a magical world.

**Directions:** On the lines below, write an essay comparing and contrasting **Watchamacallit Wizardry** with another fantasy story or fairy tale you have read or are familiar with. You may focus on the characters, the plot, the way magical or supernatural elements are incorporated into the story, and any other aspects you find important.

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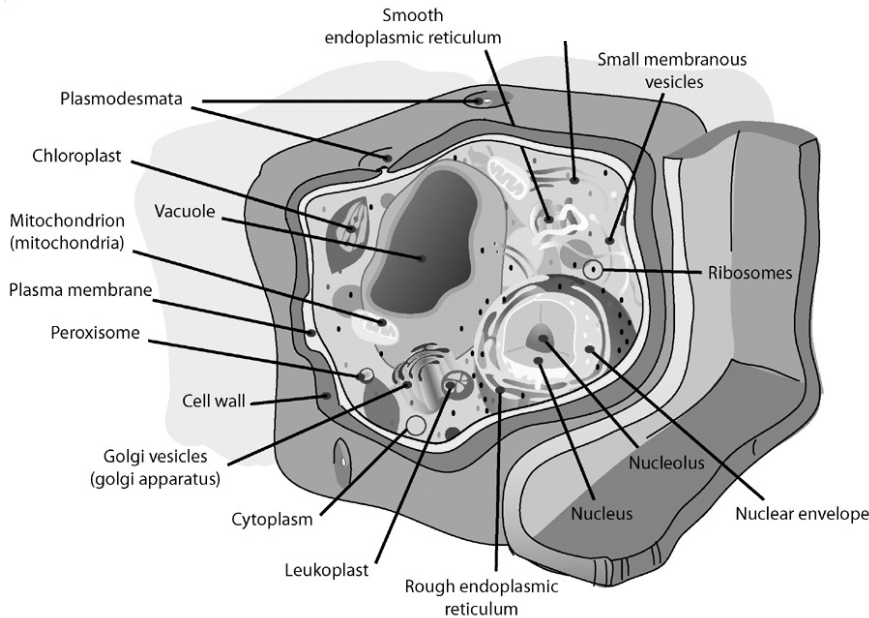
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# ★ EXTRAORDINARY PLANTS ★

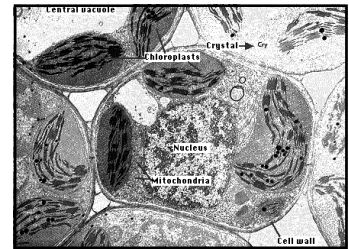
(Page 1 of 2)



In *Watchamacallit Wizardry*, everyone in Billy's neighborhood loves gardening. Mr. Vervill's flower bulbs are the largest and brightest anyone has seen, just like the rest of the plants growing on his farm. Let's take a look at what plants, like all other life, are made of.



## Structure of a Plant Cell



Photograph of a Plant Cell

All living things are made of **cells**, the smallest unit of an organism that is considered alive. Some forms of life have only one cell, such as bacteria, but plants and animals are made of many different cells. Cells are responsible for converting nutrients into energy, reproducing themselves, and carrying out special functions depending on the type of cell. Structures inside of cells are called **organelles**, each designed to carry out a cell function. Below is a summary of important plant cell parts.

**plasma membrane:** a barrier surrounding the cell which contains it but allows certain materials such as nutrients to pass through

**cytoplasm:** jelly-like material filling the space between the plasma membrane and the other organelles, which gives shape to the cell and holds organelles in position

**cell wall:** found only in plant cells (not in animal cells), a rigid layer outside the cell membrane which provides protection and structure

**nucleus:** holds the genetic information for the cell (DNA) and makes copies of it (RNA) for reproduction

**ribosomes:** where proteins are made

**endoplasmic reticulum:** a transport system for molecules needed in certain places and for certain processes

**Golgi apparatus:** where proteins are processed and packaged, especially for release from the cell

**mitochondria:** the "powerhouse" of the cell (where energy is created)

**chloroplast:** use light to produce sugars, along with the help of water and carbon dioxide (found only in plant and algae cells)

**vacuole:** contains water and dissolved minerals

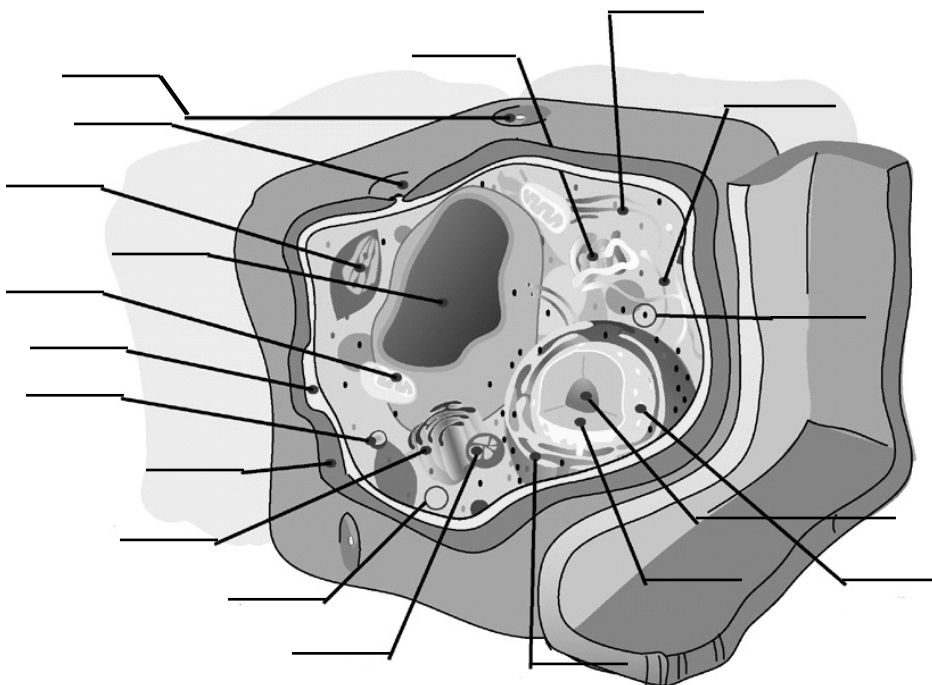


# ★ QUIZ YOURSELF! ★

(Extraordinary Plants: Page 2 of 2)



**Directions:** Take the following quiz without looking at the information sheet on plant cells. Label the picture of the plant cell with the cell parts from the word bank below. Write the letter of the correct cell part on the line provided. There are more parts shown on the picture than there are words in the bank, and you only need to label the parts shown in the word bank, which were defined on the previous page.



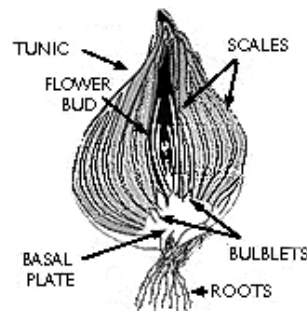
### Word Bank

- A. mitochondria
- B. endoplasmic reticulum
- C. cytoplasm
- D. vacuole
- E. cell wall
- F. nucleus
- G. ribosomes
- H. chloroplast
- I. plasma membrane
- J. Golgi apparatus

### What are Flower Bulbs?

Flower bulbs contain everything a flower needs to sprout, grow, and bloom. The image on the right shows what is inside bulbs. In the center is a baby **bud** that will grow to become a flower. Surrounding the bud are the **scales**, which consist of many layers of a white, firm substance that provides food for the growing bud. At the "bottom" of the bulb is the **basal plate**, which holds the **roots** and serves to anchor the bulb in the ground. The thin, dry protective layer on the outside of the bulb is called the **tunic**.

A familiar example of a bulb is an onion. If you cut one in half you can easily see the parts discussed above.



**Tulip Bulb**

Not all flowers grow from bulbs, but bulbs help with several challenges for plants. They help them to live through a season of very hot or cold weather. The plant becomes inactive or **dormant** during the hard times, safe in the ground, and when the temperature is right they start growing and flowering again. Bulbs also allow plants to grow in shady places that only get enough sunlight in the spring. The bulbs simply wait under ground until the following spring to come to life again. Because not many other plants are able to grow in shady places, the bulbs have plenty of room and nutrients.

The characteristics of bulbs make them great for planting in your garden because they often multiply underground, and they can continue to sprout and bloom several years in a row.

# ★WORDS OF WISDOM★



**Directions:** Read the following quotes from *Watchamacallit Wizardry* and identify the **speaker** (which character said the lines). Next, on the lines provided, explain the context of the quote or why the quote is important to the story.

1. "Yeah, that's it ... persnickety! It sure sounded like something a wizard would say."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. "I hope we both have learned a big lesson today. We both got so caught up with our own wants, we neglected the needs of others, and that has caused a lot of confusion and misunderstanding."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. "He has lived here for many years. Grandpa built his house, in fact. I will draw you a map showing how to get there."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. "Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past to the future do not perform their duty to the world."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. "Yes, there are probably scientists...."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. "Somehow we just knew we shouldn't ... almost like the waterfall was communicating with us."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. "He also felt the rock was important, and somehow he knew it was **not** for him."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. "Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, never again to be alone."

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ★ADVICE FROM MR. VERVILL★



**Directions:** In the Playbook® story, Mr. Vervill tells Billy and Casey that he is a link from the past to the present, and the boys should think of themselves as links from the present to the future. Tell what you think Mr. Vervill means by this, and then relate this advice to your own life. How are **you** a link from the present to the future?

A large rectangular box containing 20 horizontal lines for writing.

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# ★LINK FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE★



In **Watchamacallit Wizardry**, Mr. Verrill recommends that Billy and Casey go to the library and look through old newspapers and magazines to see if there are any reports of strange happenings like the ones on his farm. Being able to accurately research topics you are interested in or need to know about is an important life skill for school and beyond. You may be used to doing research for school projects only by using an Internet browser. Do you think the Internet is always a reliable source of information? This activity will help you decide.

**Directions:** Explore the following website which describes the life and work of a medieval artist, Jacopo di Poggibonsi, who copied other people's paintings. Your teacher will allow your class time to read this website and others in the school library. <http://www.umich.edu/~engtt516/> To see an **Encyclopedia Britannica article on Jacopo**, click the **"Analyses"** link at the top of the page, then click the **"Supplementi"** link on the left. Scroll down to **"Sites on Individual Renaissance Artists,"** where you will find a link labeled **"(Jacopo.)"**

The situation described on the website is an example of early plagiarism. Do you think that copying paintings during the medieval time period can be considered illegal? Write a paragraph summarizing your thoughts, using the information you learned from the website. Do you feel the source is credible? Why or why not?

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## Can you tell good resource websites from bad resource websites?

Some websites do not always provide correct information. For example, articles found on **Wikipedia** can be submitted by anyone, and the information is not checked for accuracy. Visit the following websites, which are examples of good and bad web resources. Your job is to figure out which ones are reliable and which are not. On a separate sheet of paper, take notes on your observations about the websites and make a list of ways to tell if a resource is reliable or not. When your teacher directs you to, discuss your ideas with your classmates.

Which website is the official site of the White House?

- <http://www.whitehousehistory.org/>
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Which is the real website for the World Trade Organization?

- <http://www.wto.org/>
- <http://www.gatt.org/>

Decide whether these websites are reliable:

- <http://homepages.udayton.edu/~ahern/rurhist.htm>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

# ★WATCHAMACOLLIT WIZARDRY★

## ANSWER KEY FOR TEACHER USE ONLY

### Mysterious Mathematics

#### Part A:

1.  $y = 73$
2.  $n = 64,380$
3.  $x = 744$
4.  $t = 65$
5.  $y = 535$

#### Part B:

1. K (1, -4)
2. Y (6, 5)
3. V (1, -3)
4. C (-4, -3)
5. Q (2, 3)

#### Part C:

1. Area = 8971 square inches, Perimeter = 436 inches
2. circumference = (about) 159.2 feet



### Words of Wisdom

(Answers regarding significance of quotes may vary.)

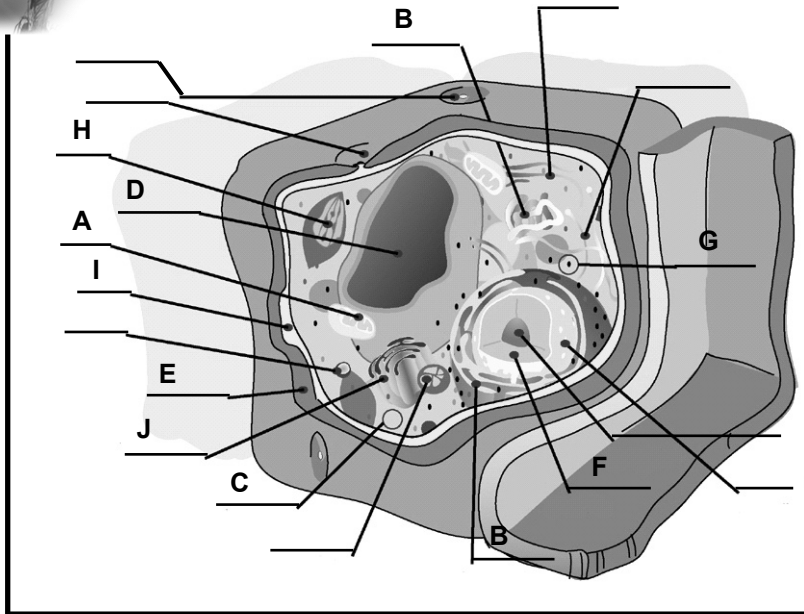
1. Casey; he is telling Billy about a strange wizard-sounding word he heard his mother say. After Billy accidentally upsets his grandmother by mentioning connoption fits, he needs to warn Casey not to let anyone know his mother called someone persnickety to stop him from making the same mistake.
2. Mother; she is apologizing to Billy for not being available to answer his questions before he went to ask Grandmother instead, and accidentally told her about the connoption fit comment.
3. Grandmother; she is talking about Mac Verrill, Grandfather's old friend, who tells Billy and Casey all about the Weejee to a Muster Mill secret.
4. Mr. Verrill; Mac explains to the boys that they are important to the world. Mac says he is the link from the present to the past, and the boys are the link from the present to the future.
5. Billy; he wonders why Mac has not had any experts come see the magical things on his farm, and Mac insists that is not the right thing to do.
6. Mr. Verrill; Mac explains that he and Nat simply knew that they should not tell anyone. The idea of the waterfall communicating with them connects to the voice Billy hears underwater by the waterfall.
7. Narrator; after Billy falls in the water, he finds a gold rock in his hand. He knows he is not supposed to keep it and suddenly realizes he should give it to his grandmother for her birthday gift. His grandmother clearly recognizes it and expected to see it one day.
8. Grandmother; she says this while writing her letter to Billy, and it nearly mirrors the words that Billy heard in the waterfall: "Flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone; from this moment on, you'll never be alone." It is apparently a message from Billy's grandfather having to do with the secret of the waterfall.

# ★WATCHAMACALLIT WIZARDRY★

## ANSWER KEY (CONTINUED)



### Quiz Yourself



### Link From the Past to the Future: Teacher Instructions

**The website provided about Jacopo di Poggibonsi is false. No such artist exists.** Instruct the students, after they have thoroughly reviewed the website and written their assigned paragraphs, to go to <http://www.britannica.com> and run a search for "Jacopo di Poggibonsi." When students begin reporting that they cannot find an entry on him, inform students that Jacopo di Poggibonsi does not exist. Explain the importance of inspecting a website for reliability before assuming the information presented to be true. Anyone can publish information online and it may be true or false, as they have discovered. Next, let them move on to reviewing the websites listed on the student activity page and analyzing their reliability. After they have finished, have a class discussion about their observations. Remind students that they should not limit their research to the Internet and should also look at books from a library. Students will learn a valuable lesson in research skills! **This activity is designed for students in Grades 6-8.**



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