



## *Pooka's Page for Grownups*

In this issue, Miss Epstein, the village librarian, reappears. She only posts when she's found a special book that she knows kids and adults will both enjoy... and this time she's found several by two different authors!

The first is our own Rayne Storm who has been regularly contributing wonderful craft projects in the Pooka Pages for many years now. I can't begin to tell you how delighted I was as I read Rayne's book and can't wait to share it with my grandson, Triston!

You will also find tons of printable pagan activities for kids, recipes and crafts at Rayne's website:

<http://www.themagickalcauldron.com/>

The 3 other books are from Kyrja with beautiful illustrations by Tonia Bennington Osborn. These books are truly a blessing for anyone trying to explain the Wheel of the Year to young children.... But don't just take my word for it. Check out Kyrja on youtube reading excerpts from the books:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZLjkaqE3p4&feature=related>

Both Kyrja's and Rayne's books are available on Amazon.com or you can ask your local bookstore or library to order them or you.

We have an unusual spell in this Spring issue... one for snow! A reaction to the Winter that Wasn't in the United States, this spell was the creation of two of our favorite contributors: Evelien in the Netherlands & Rayne Storme in New York. They sent it to me and, the next day, we had our one and only snow where I live in California. It also snowed finally (!) the same day, in Rayne's state. This simple little spell must be powerful indeed and so I'm including it in our Spring issue. Please save it and don't allow your children to use it until next winter – our weather system's already been wacky enough!

For many years, people have been asking me to make back issues of the magazine available on the Pooka Pages website instead of "retiring" each issue as it was replaced with the next one. Well, right now, links to issues from the past 2 years are posted on the magazine page...in case you didn't noticed when you picked up this issue!

## *Happy Ostara, everyone!*

## *Lora & Pooka*

*Be a good little witch -  
and see you next time!*





# *the Pooka Pages Ostara*



**Other Names:** Vernal Equinox, Spring Equinox, Rite of Eostre,

**Equinozio della Primavera (Strega), Alban Eiber (Druid), Festival of the Trees, and Lady Day.**

Spring is here and day and night are in balance! New life and fresh beginnings surround us as Earth celebrates with bright colors, fresh fragrances and the songs of birds. Eggs and hares symbolize all the things being born now. A perfect day for a breakfast picnic, an egg hunt or to bless and plant your Spring Garden!

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Coloring Page – Rupert's Tales  
Adventure Quest *by Rayne Storm*

***Don't forget to visit your Pooka Pages website for more fun stuff !***

**[www.pookapages.com](http://www.pookapages.com)**

Pooka Pages, unless otherwise noted, is written and illustrated by Lora Craig-Gaddis

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# *The Storybook Chair*



## Green Magic

Pooka purred happily as he cleaned the remnants of breakfast from his face and whiskers. Today was Market Day!

Into a basket on the kitchen table, Elsie packed her shopping bags and the various herbal wares she would sell in the village.

“Three jars of Calendula Crème, 10 bags of Tummy Tea, 20 lavender sachets, rosemary hair oil....” The little witch frowned. “What am I forgetting?” She glanced swiftly around the room, snapped her fingers and then trotted to the window sill. A moment later, a small pot of basil planted 8 weeks earlier at Ostara, was carefully added to the basket.

“You’re selling the Ostara plants?” asked Pooka.

“Not selling... Giving,” Elsie told him. “This is for Miss Nancy. You remember - She recently opened that new Tea Shop in the Village?”

Pooka nodded.

“Well, business isn’t growing as fast as she’d hoped,” Elsie said, “and she’s worried about paying the rent.”

“So, if she puts basil on her sandwiches, she’ll get more customers?” asked Pooka.

The girl laughed. “Maybe! But that’s not what this is for. A pot of basil in the window attracts money. Especially if you put a coin in the bottom of the soil like I did with this one.”

Pooka glanced up at the healthy green pot of basil that Elsie kept on their window sill in the kitchen. “I thought that was just for cooking!” he said. “You mean it’s a magic spell too? You can actually plant magic?”

“Follow me,” grinned Elsie as she headed outside. The cat and the witch paused on the front steps and Elsie pointed toward twin bushes on either side of the entrance to the garden. “Always plant rosemary by your garden gate”, she recited.

“Why?” Pooka wanted to know.

“Because rosemary keeps thieves and enemies away and welcomes friends,” Elsie told him. She then pointed out a grayish-green shrub that soon would bear fragrant stalks of purple flowers. “...and plant lavender for luck,” she continued. “Lavender raises the vibrations of a place. It brings peace....”

“...and fairies,” added Pooka. He knew that little Thistle loved lavender! “What else?” he asked. This was really cool – the idea that you could plant magic spells around your house and garden!

“Well, marjoram in the garden brings love to the home. And St. John’swort,” she said, indicating a sprawling, leafy patch beneath the apple tree, “protects from lightening, fire and evil spirits.”

“What about catnip?” asked Pooka. In his opinion, this was the most magical plant of all!

“Catnip attracts friends in general,” said Elsie and she smiled as she glanced toward that particular spot in the garden. Pooka followed her gaze and then sprang to his paws. Two cats from the neighboring farm were advancing toward his catnip’s tender young leaves.

As Pooka dashed off to defend his catnip patch from the marauders, he called over his shoulder to the witch, “That’s one garden spell that works TOO well! You’d better make a ‘No Trespassing’ sign!”





## Elsie's HERB GARDEN

### Magic in Pots

You don't have to have a garden like Elsie's to work Green Magic. Plants work their spells even from a sunny window or on an apartment balcony and plenty of herbs do very well in pots. Mint, sage, thyme, ginger, rosemary, aloe vera, and, of course, basil are just a few and each has its own special magic.

When growing herbs in pots, you can even boost the magic by putting crystals, coins or special stones in the soil. Paint the outside of the pot with runes & symbols that support the spell your plant is casting. Paint runes & growth symbols on your watering can and bless the water you use before giving your plants a drink.

Make a short rhyme of your spell and write it on a plant marker, then stick it in the soil next to your plant. "East, North, South or West. Love is Home and Home is Best!"

Scatter marbles or colored stones on the surface of the soil using colors that support your spell. (Green for money, Pink for Love, Yellow for happiness, Purple or Clear for spiritual growth, Blue for peace and no fighting, Red, Brown or Gray for protection...)

**Elsie says:** When potting up a plant for magic, it's usually best to do it when the moon is getting bigger (waxing from new moon to full moon). Watch the sky at night... Witches do that a lot!





# *The Storybook Chair*

## New Books

It was a quiet evening in the little cottage. Elsie sat by the hearth stitching a tarot bag for Aunt Tilly. Edgar the Crow snoozed (and occasionally snorted) on his perch in the corner of the parlor and Pooka sat thoughtfully watching the flicker of flames dancing along the fireplace logs.



Finally, the little cat stretched, reaching his front legs straight out and arching his back to the tip of his tail. He even stretched his whiskers. Then, in one smooth movement, he landed in his Elsie's lap.

"Blessed Be, Pooks! Do you WANT to get stuck with this needle?" the little witch exclaimed.

Pooka circled and then curled up on her lap, covering both the hand holding the needle and fabric it was piercing with his round little belly. "What needle?" he asked, yawning.

"The very sharp one that's making an Ostara present for Aunt Tilly. The one you happen to be lying on," Elsie told him as she rolled her eyes.

"Speaking of Ostara," said Pooka (who'd apparently not heard the rest of what she was saying!) "I've been thinking... I know Ostara's coming and it's all about rabbits and eggs and day and night being equal. But, I don't really feel like I understand it. And," he continued, "I feel the same way about a lot of the holidays! I guess some of the stuff you tell me about them is just over my head." And at this, the little cat shook his head to demonstrate and almost DID get poked!

Elsie smiled and carefully pulled the material she was working on and the needle out from under her cat and placed them both on the sewing basket next to the chair. "Hop down," she said.

Pooka did and Elsie moved toward the bookshelf. "Today, while we were in the village, Miss Epstein, the librarian, had some books waiting for me." The witch pulled 3 books from the shelf. "They're about a little bunny named Rupert who learns about the Wheel of the Year. Shall I read them to you?"

"Yes, please... if you think they'll help," said Pooka. "I hate being confused and not understanding these things. I mean, they're important... right?"

"Very important," agreed Elsie. "Understanding the Wheel helps you to be in balance with nature all year long."

She sat in the chair again and the cat jumped back into her lap. "Okay, read to me!" he said. And so she did.

When she'd finished the first book, he demanded to hear the second. And as she read, Pooka studied and enjoyed the beautiful pictures. As she closed the second book, he said, "Well that explains things so any kitten can understand! What's this 3<sup>rd</sup> book?"

"That's an activity and coloring book to go along with the stories," said Elsie. Pooka quickly jumped off her lap and began trotting out of the room.

"Where are you going?" Elsie asked.

"To get my crayons, of course!" said Pooka.

"Get mine too!" called Elsie.

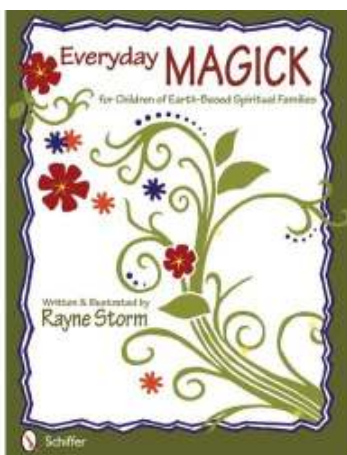
# Miss Epstein's Pagan Picks Book Review



## **Rupert's Tales: The Wheel of the Year** 3 books by Kyrja and Tonia Bennington Osborn (illustrator)

Understanding the Wheel of the Year and the holidays we use to mark the turning points can be hard... especially if you're little! Rupert the rabbit is little, but through his adventures during the year and with help from some especially magical friends, he manages to figure them out.

Written in rhyming format and coupled with illustrations to enchant young and old alike, these books will be passed down through generations!



## **Everyday Magick** by Rayne Storm

Through whimsical poems, fun activities and interactive questions, Rayne encourages children of pagan families to discover the magick that is within and around them every day in even the smallest things.

Children will giggle at the poems and grownups will be inspired by the family activities and challenges presented throughout. And everyone, young or old, will find themselves learning and growing spiritually while having huge fun in the process!

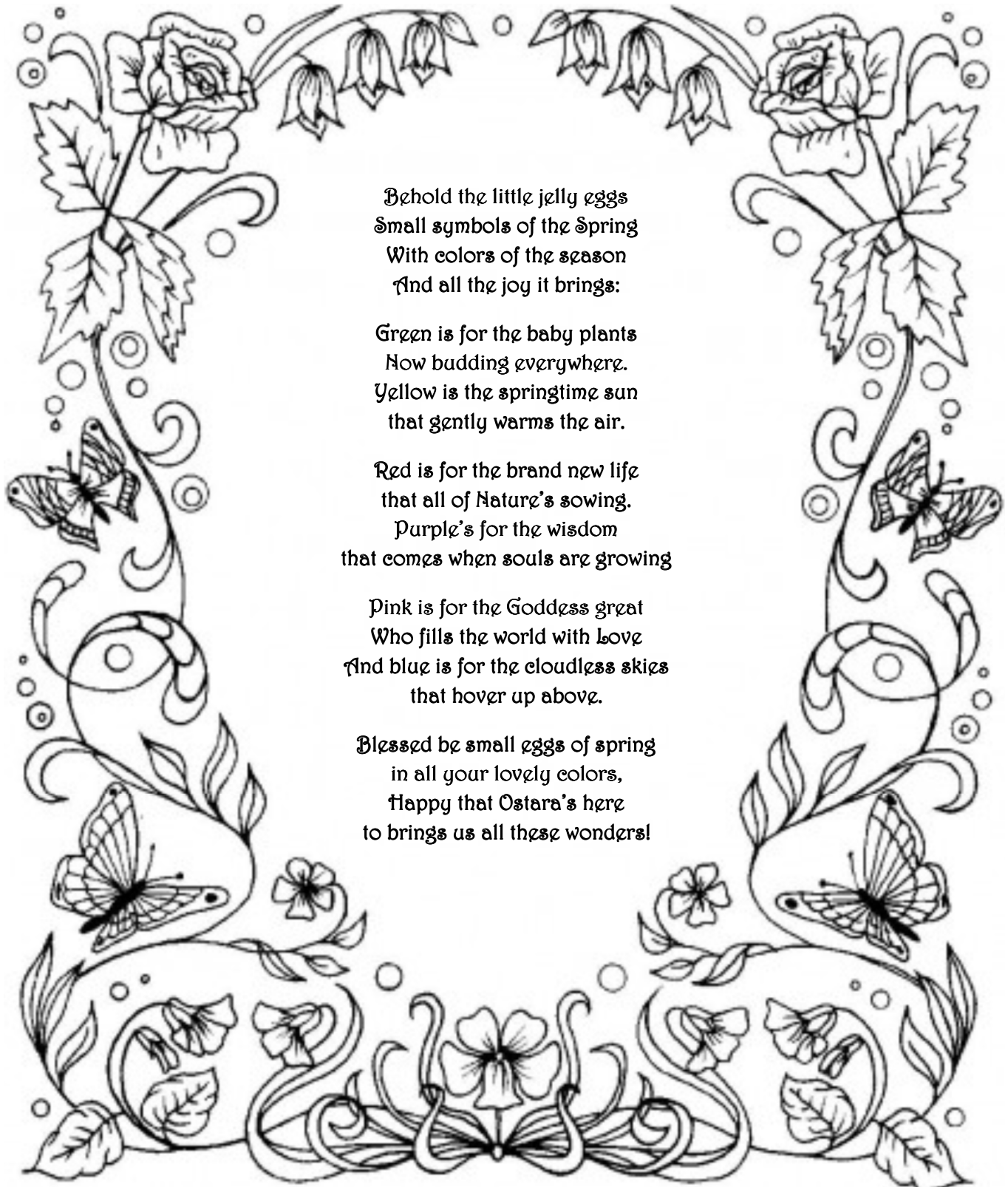


Here is a picture from the Rupert's Tales, Wheel of the Year Activity Book for you to color!  
(Picture courtesy of Kyrja, Tonia Bennington Osborn & Schiffer Publishing)



# OSTARA RITUAL

*On your family's Ostara Altar, place a "nest" of jelly bean eggs: green, yellow, red, purple, pink and blue. As you read the ritual (or have an older person read it) pick out and eat a jelly bean egg as its color is spoken – thus absorbing the blessings of the season. You can also color this page for your Little Book of Shadows.*



Behold the little jelly eggs  
Small symbols of the Spring  
With colors of the season  
And all the joy it brings:

Green is for the baby plants  
Now budding everywhere.  
Yellow is the springtime sun  
that gently warms the air.

Red is for the brand new life  
that all of Nature's sowing.  
Purple's for the wisdom  
that comes when souls are growing

Pink is for the Goddess great  
Who fills the world with love  
And blue is for the cloudless skies  
that hover up above.

Blessed be small eggs of spring  
in all your lovely colors,  
Happy that Ostara's here  
to brings us all these wonders!

# WitchCrafts

## Snow Sticks

*By Evelien Roos from the Netherlands*

I know this winter has no right to call itself that. Not over here anyway, and I know for a fact that Rayne Storm has been complaining about unseasonably warm weather over at her place as well. So we came up with these: SNOW STICKS. I am sure we all know rain sticks, to make rain. Why not try and make it snow in the same way?



This is what you will need:

- A kitchen paper roll
  - Scissors
- Some tape (duct tape or broad clear tape)
  - Masking tape (I was out...)
- Poster paint, brushes, glitter, any decorations you like
  - Toothpicks
- A couple of pieces of white paper and hole puncher.

Start by punching a LOT of holes in the paper. The punched rounds will be your magic snow inside the tube.

When you have done this, proceed by closing off one end of your tube with tape. Make sure you have it all really closed off. I used two pieces in a cross over the top and then again all around the tube.

Gently pour your magic snow into the tube. Some of it will stick to the tape, but there will be enough left to tumble around.





After that, get enough toothpicks that you can make a circle about one dime big. (See photo for an example) These you put into the tube like on the next picture.



Close off the other end of your tube with tape again. will have a rough snow stick, as my witchling Andy demonstrating.

Next up is decorating your snow stick. We opted for decoration with paint, but you are free to decorate anything you like.

For a base it is wise to use masking tape. Just cover sick with it, so your decorations will stick that much your snow stick. Then: start decorating! (A winter perfect of course, but again: it is your stick, so your



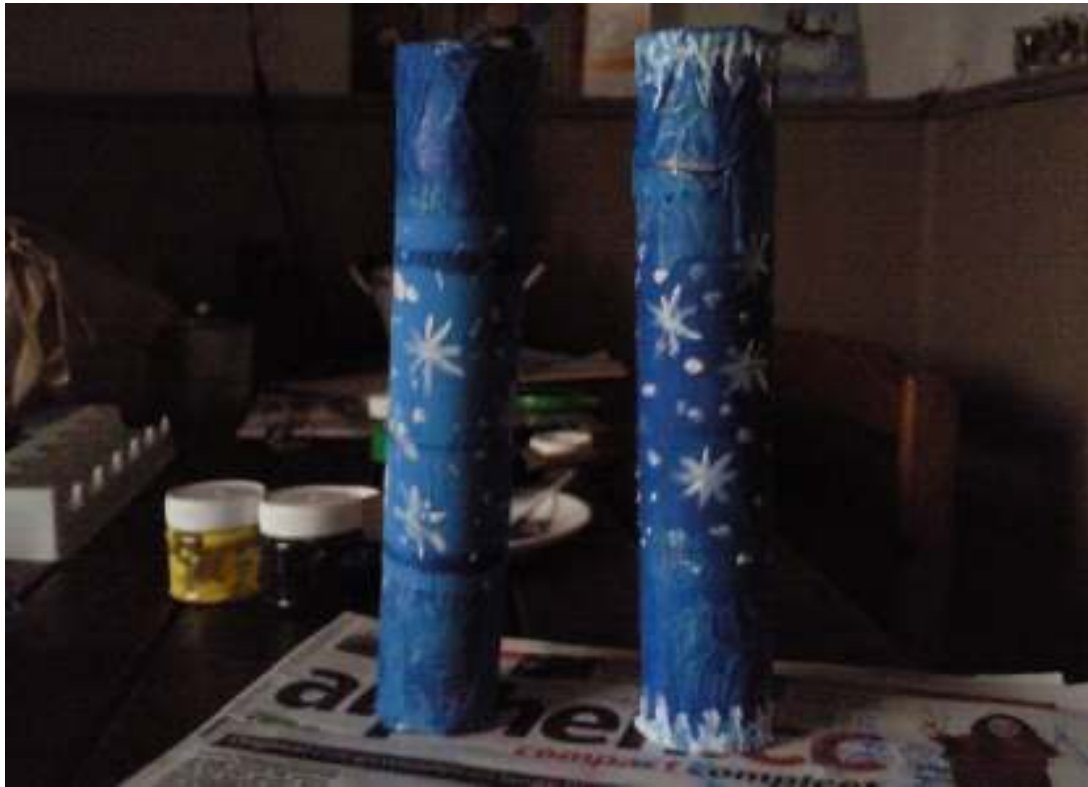
Now you is

a simple with

the whole better to theme is choice!)



We made two, and as you see my witchlings copied off each other, which is perfectly alright, because my daughter added the icicles at the top and bottom and made it her own that way.



When your stick is dry, just gently turn it over and hear the sound of boots, crunching in the freshly fallen snow! Now imagine the temperature dropping and snow lightly starting to fall, as you turn your stick over and over.

If you like, you can chant something like this:

***“Rain and shine please go,  
I am shaking for some snow.  
I don’t want hail or sleet  
Just to hear snow crunch under my feet.  
Weather Gods please hear this plea.  
As I wish it so mote it be.”***

Let’s hope the Weather Gods are listening!

# Adventure Quest

*the secret artifacts of the sacred altar*

Using a backpack / messenger bag, a special box or container to collect the items below to create your very own sacred altar. An altar is very personal to the individual person who uses it, every item on an altar is hand collected by the user. You can use draw / colored items, items you created by hand, or items that you located and collected (with permission). Happy Questing!

<input type="radio"/> Something to represent the <b>Element of Earth</b>	<input type="radio"/> Draw or create a <b>Pentagram</b>
<input type="radio"/> Something to represent the <b>Element of Water</b>	<input type="radio"/> Draw or create an <b>Wand</b>
<input type="radio"/> Something to represent the <b>Element of Air</b>	<input type="radio"/> Something to represent <b>Goddess</b>
<input type="radio"/> Something to represent the <b>Element of Fire</b>	<input type="radio"/> Something to represent <b>God</b>
<input type="radio"/> You will need something to act as <b>an Altar Cloth</b>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Adventure Quest

-- Rayne Storm, Ostara 2012

You will need:

- a messenger bag / book bag
- an imagination
- an empty shoebox / toolbox / bag to put your items in
- your Adventure Quest list

**What you need to do:**

Collect the items related to your Adventure Quest, you can; draw or color your item, create the item by hand (using sculpty or legos), use items from nature (be sure to let the plant know your intentions), use items from around your house (with permission)... the possibilities are endless when you use your imagination while putting your focus and thought into each item that you collect.

Note: There really is no time limit and it's not meant to be a competition. The focus of the Adventure Quest is to learn, think, create and have

**FUN!!!**

I have included an example of just one type of adventure you can have: collecting items for your own sacred altar. You could make it a family quest and create a family altar – be it an elemental altar or a Sabbat altar.

**Other suggestions:**

Using the blank Adventure Quest, laminate it (you can get full page sheets to do a self-laminating if you don't have a lamination machine) and then you can use dry erase markers on it, allowing you to re-use it time and time again for other Adventure Quests.

**Other Adventure suggestions:**

- \* The secrets of courage ... then look for different items related to courage ... like a stone, the color (either as a scribble on an index card or the crayon of choice), a picture of an animal out of a magazine that it represents ....
- \* The secret animals within me ... look for pictures, draw pictures, or find/create small statue like representations of the animals that help you discover the animals in your totem ... what animal do you like best, what animal do you like to visit when you go to the zoo, which animal do you see the most in nature ... what animals are you most afraid of ...

As always, no choices are really ever wrong as long as they understand why they have chosen that item to represent what it was they were looking for. Happy Questing!!



# Adventure Quest

## *the secret artifacts of the sacred altar*

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# Adventure Quest

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(focus of quest)

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