

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

9th - 15th December 2024

WICKED



**Should everyone
have the
opportunity to
be a star?**





Let's look at this week's story

Wicked, the hugely successful Broadway musical, has recently premiered worldwide as a film. Wicked shares a different perspective of the events in the magical land featured in 'The Wizard of Oz', prior to Dorothy's arrival. It is the story of Elphaba (a misunderstood witch), who later becomes the Wicked Witch of the West, and her friendship with Glinda, who becomes the Good Witch. Karis Musongole, aged 10 from Manchester, plays the young version of Elphaba.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).

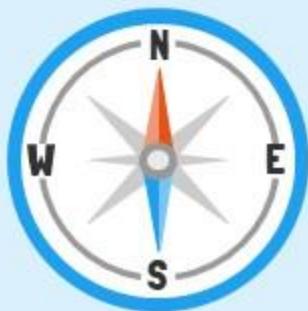


How does it make me feel?



sad despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	angry aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	happy beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	confused addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	excited animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	worried agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	overwhelmed engulfed inundated overburdened overloaded saturated submerged swamped	afraid alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified
guilty ashamed compunctions contrite culpable penitent responsible rueful	jealous bitter covetous desirous envious envying resentful wary	thankful appreciative grateful gratified indebted obliged relieved	shocked astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	disgusted affronted appalled horrified repelled repulsed revolted sickened	inspired activated encouraged exhilarated galvanised influenced motivated	embarrassed ashamed awkward chagrined demeaned discomposed humiliated self-conscious uncomfortable uneasy unsettled	interested absorbed captivated curious engaged enthralled fascinated gripped intrigued riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...



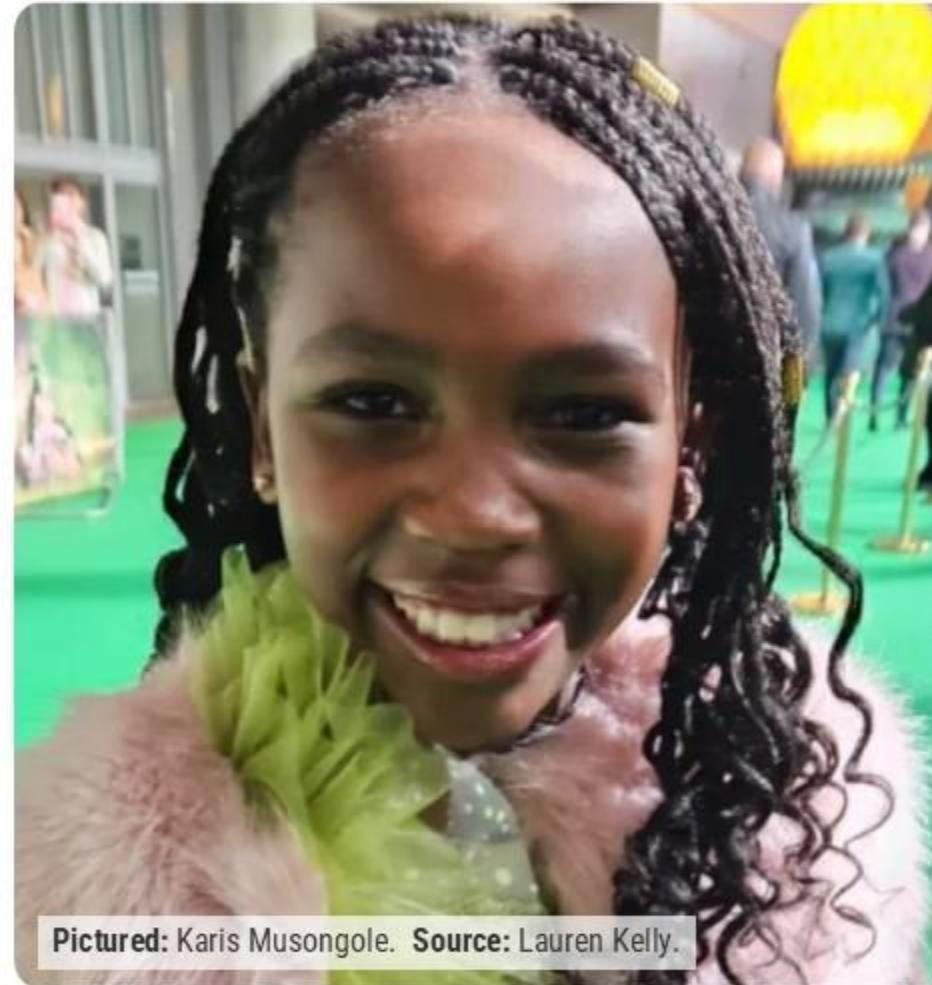


Read through the resource below, which provides more information about Karis' role. What highs and lows do you think she will have experienced being in the film?

Who is Karis Musongole, and what role does she play in Wicked?

Karis is 10 years old and is from Manchester. When chosen to play the young Elphaba in the new Wicked film, she said it felt like she was in a fairytale.

The actor joined an all-star cast that included Cynthia Erivo (as adult Elphaba) and singer, Ariana Grande, (as Glinda the Good Witch). Karis was delighted to also be joined by her best friend Harriet, who plays a munchkin in the film!



Pictured: Karis Musongole. Source: Lauren Kelly.

I'm really excited to do more musical theatre roles as I really love theatre but it's also made me excited to want to do more film and television.

I'd really like to play some mean roles! It was amazing to see so many people that were really excited for me and really kind.



If you could play a character from your favourite musical or film, who would you want to play? Why?



Look at the resource below, which shows people shining in different ways!



Do you agree that each person is being a star?
How?

What talents do they have?

How are they helping others?

How are they spreading kindness, love or joy?





Read the comments below, sharing some people's thoughts on performances.

I love to perform on stage. I enjoy the mixture of nerves and excitement I have before I perform, and how amazing it feels at the end. I sometimes find practising hard. We have to repeat things over and over again. We get tired and frustrated with each other and it isn't always fun. But, working hard pays off when we put on our spectacular performance!



Basma, year 4



I am not a huge fan of performing, but I do take part. I prefer helping with the set changes, lighting and music. When we perform, I sometimes feel under pressure to make sure everything is right, and I need to concentrate so the music is correct. When it doesn't go right, we have to be flexible to keep the show going!



Maddox, year 6



There are many skills we can develop through preparing for a performance. The children in my class all worked together to put on a dance for parents. Every child choreographed part of it, wrote an invitation or poster to advertise it, decided what they were going to wear, and sorted the lighting, scenery and music. It took teamwork, organisation, dedication, confidence, communication, creativity. My class also developed empathy. Not everyone found it easy to perform, so they supported each other.



Charlie, teacher



Discuss how each person feels about performing. Can you make a list of skills mentioned? Do you believe they can be learned and developed through taking part in performances?

WICKED



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Reflection



We are all stars in different ways. We all have talents and gifts. It is important to recognise and celebrate who we are and what makes us special.





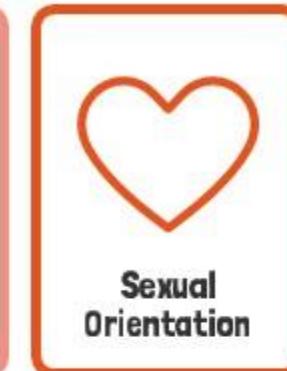
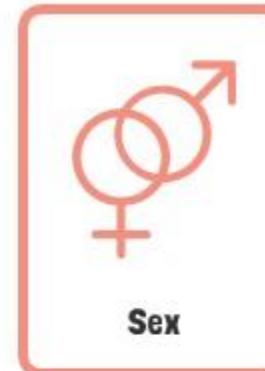
Individual Liberty

We have the freedom to choose and pursue the hobbies and interests we enjoy. We respect the choices of others and support them in finding and sharing their talents.

Protected Characteristics

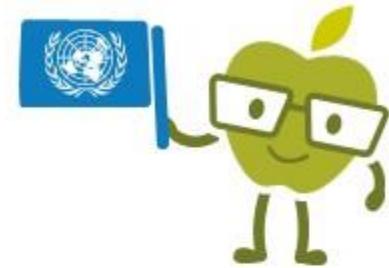


Children can develop talents and interests from a young age. We should all be provided with the opportunities to find and take part in the activities that interest us, no matter our age.





UN Rights of the Child



We have the right to explore and pursue artistic interests. Adults should give us opportunities to learn about and practise the arts that we enjoy.



Useful vocabulary

Broadway

A famous area in New York City with lots of theatres where musicals and plays are performed.

Wicked, the hugely successful **Broadway** musical, has recently premiered worldwide as a film.

Perspective

A particular way of looking at or thinking about a story or situation, from someone's point of view.

Wicked shares a different **perspective** of the events in the magical land featured in 'The Wizard of Oz', prior to Dorothy's arrival.

Cast

The group of actors, singers, and performers who take part in a play, musical, movie, or show.

The actor joined an all-star **cast** that included Cynthia Erivo (as adult Elphaba) and singer, Ariana Grande, (as Glinda the Good Witch).

Premiere

To show or perform something, like a movie, play, or musical, for the first time.

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Cast

Munchkin

A small character from the magical land of Oz. They are cheerful and friendly people who live in Munchkinland.

Karis was also joined by her best friend Harriet, who plays a **munchkin** in the film.

Roles

The character that an actor plays in a movie, play, or TV show.

I'd really like to play some mean **roles**!



Can you use them in your writing this week?

Collective Worship



Bible Link: Matthew 5:14-16

Christian Value: Joy

Theme: What a star!



Pupil involvement

You will need some cut-out stars, a picture/video of stars, or slide 3 of the PowerPoint.

Ask everyone to sit quietly for two minutes and look at the stars. Use this opportunity to reflect on how amazing stars are!

Next, ask everyone to close their eyes and imagine looking at the night sky. Can you see the stars shining brightly in the sky? Can you spot any shooting stars? Are there any constellations?

Finally, imagine what the night sky would be like without any stars at all, just a vast darkness.

Stars can fill us with joy, hope, awe and wonder! Sometimes people can be described as 'stars'. Share examples e.g., Star of the Week, a football star, a popstar. Share any examples of times when someone has called you a star.

Pupil talk

- How does looking up at the stars in the night sky make you feel?
- How do you 'shine like a star'? What joy do you bring to others? What gifts can you share?
- Who guides you, lights up your path and helps you on your journey through life?

Think

Wicked, the hugely successful Broadway musical, has recently premiered worldwide as a film. Wicked shares a different perspective of the events in the magical land featured in 'The Wizard of Oz', prior to Dorothy's arrival. It is the story of Elphaba (a misunderstood witch), who later becomes the Wicked Witch of the West, and her friendship with Glinda, who becomes the Good Witch. Karis Musongole, aged 10 from Manchester, plays the young version of Elphaba.

Over 2000 years ago, some wise men saw a very special star in the sky. They were excited as they knew this star would lead them to a new king. They arrived in Bethlehem, where they found baby Jesus, in a manger. The star guided them to the greatest 'star' of all. Jesus guides us throughout our lives and can help us all to 'shine'.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus,
Thank you that he is our guiding star, he shows us the way, he helps us all shine,
We are all stars, help us to shine our lights on others and spread joy,
Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- We are all stars in different ways! We might call someone a star if they do something kind, helpful or amazing!
- Can you tell someone in your class why they are a star?
- What makes you a star?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- This time of year brings joy and excitement for many. However, for some, it can be a difficult and dark time. Discuss why this might be.
- How can you bring light and happiness and shine on others at this time of year?

Worship song

We Three Kings



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God



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- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. Has anyone seen the film Wicked? Would you like to? What have you heard about it?
- On this week's poster is 10-year-old Karis Musongole, who featured in the film. Read through the assembly resource, which provides more information about Karis' role. What highs and lows do you think she will have experienced being in the film?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows some of the Wicked actors answering questions about its creation. Can you think of any questions you would like to ask Karis or any of the other actors?
- Thinking about plays and performances at school, do you enjoy being on stage? Talk about the different roles involved in producing a play, including on stage and behind the scenes. Share your thoughts on how important each role is.
- In your opinion, what makes someone a star? Talk about your interests and talents, and how unique we all are.

Reflection

We are all stars in different ways. We all have talents and gifts. It is important to recognise and celebrate who we are and what makes us special.



KS1 focus

What makes someone a star?



- What is a star? Describe a star to the person next to you. Sometimes, we refer to a person as a 'star'. Have you ever been described as a star? What did you do? What do you think being a star means?
- Who do you think of when you hear the word 'star'? Is it someone famous, someone you know, or someone in a story? Do you think being a star always means being on stage or famous? Can stars shine in other places too?
- Look at resource 1, which shows how people can shine in different ways. Do you agree that each person is being a star? How? What talents do they have? How are they helping others? How are they spreading kindness, love or joy?
- Can being kind or helpful make someone a star? Can you think of any examples of how people can shine by helping others?
- What makes your friends or family members stars in your eyes? Is it the way they make you feel or something they do?
- Who are the stars in your life? It could be a friend or teacher, a character in a story or someone else!
- Do you think everyone has the chance to be a star? How does it feel to be called a star? In what other ways can we help each other to feel special and valued?

Reflection

Everyone can shine in their own way. Being a star means using your unique talents and gifts to bring joy and kindness.



KS2 focus

What can we learn from taking part in performances?



- Think about some of the performances you have taken part in, e.g., playing an instrument, singing, acting, dancing, a class assembly. Where did you perform? What did you perform? Who else was involved? Did you enjoy it?
- Discuss the time and effort you put into your performance. Did you rehearse or practise? Did you have to overcome any difficulties? Did you need to prepare any scenery, costumes, equipment or props? How did you advertise it?
- Whether we enjoy performances or not, there are many things we can learn from taking part in them. Read the comments on resource 2, sharing some people's thoughts on performances. Discuss how each person feels about performing. Can you make a list of skills mentioned? Do you believe they can be learned and developed through taking part in performances?
- Look at the list of skills. For each of the performances you have taken part in, which of these skills did you learn? Can you think of anything else you learned?
- Basma mentions feeling nervous and excited. How do you think she overcomes these feelings to ensure her performance is good? Have you ever had to learn to overcome nerves?
- To put on an incredible performance, many things need to happen beforehand. Discuss all the different roles people may have and the different jobs that may need doing. What role would you prefer to take on and why?

Reflection

There are many different skills and different roles people play in order to put together a performance. We can all learn something about ourselves and each other!



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Many films, theatre productions and school performances are advertised in advance, to encourage people to purchase tickets. Create a poster to advertise a film or a performance you may have coming up in school! Include the following:

- An eye-catching, bold title.
- Ambitious vocabulary e.g., magnificent, spectacular, exquisite.
- Alliteration e.g., prestigious performance.
- Imperative (bossy) verbs e.g., experience, enjoy, witness.
- A rhetorical question.
- Information such as where and when the film/performance can be watched.

Option 2

Often films or performances are reviewed. Design a survey to gather information about a film you have all watched, a book you have all read, or even about a performance you are part of. Think about:

- How will you collect the information?
- What questions will you ask?
- Who will you ask?
- Will you have multiple-choice answers, ratings, written answers, or a variety?
- How will you record the data? Tally charts, graphs?
- How will you analyse the data?
- What do you expect to learn from the data?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

For this activity you will need a star shape on a piece of card or paper. Have your teacher print some outlines, or have a go at drawing your own! Next, think about what makes you shine.

- Is it something you're great at, something you love doing, or a way you help others?

Draw a picture or write a few words inside your star to show what makes you special. If you like, add some sparkle by decorating your star with patterns, stickers, or glitter! Share your star with the class, you might like to hang them from a line or a tree.

Admire your class stars and celebrate all the amazing ways you shine!

Option 2

Let's become star explorers! Begin by talking about stars.

- How many sides does a star have?
- What shapes can you spot inside a star?

Look at some star shapes online and count the corners (or points) together. Discuss how stars often have straight sides and sharp angles. Use a ruler to draw a star with straight sides. You could start with one triangle, then overlap another triangle, or create your own design! Show your star to a partner and explain how you created it.

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp81r195ygo

This week's useful video

Questions for the Wicked cast

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/videos/cp8x17l0rxeo

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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Jurassic Jumper

At the Natural History Museum in London, the famous *Tyrannosaurus rex* (T. rex) is ready for Christmas! This year, the big dinosaur is wearing a colourful jumper featuring Fern the Diplodocus, another dinosaur friend. The jumper is made from soft, sustainable cotton, which is good for the planet. This festive tradition has become a highlight for museum visitors. Adam Farrar from the museum said, 'The annual unveiling of our Christmas T. rex display has become a firm favourite amongst our audiences. It's a fun way to spread holiday cheer.' The T. rex's jumper is so popular that the museum is selling smaller versions in their

shop, so you can match with the dino. Every purchase helps support the museum's important work in studying and protecting nature. So, if you visit the museum this holiday season, don't forget to say hello to the T. rex in its special Christmas jumper!

Do you have a special jumper that you wear at Christmas time?



Pictured: T. rex flaunting his Christmas jumper!
Source: @AndySwann45 on X.

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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@HelpPicture

Baby Planet Found

Astronomers have discovered one of the youngest planets ever found! Meet TIDYE-1b, a giant planet that's just three million years old – the same as a two-week-old baby in planet years. This tiny planet orbits its star, which is also very young, in a special place called the Taurus Molecular Cloud. It's 520 million light years away from Earth and full of new stars, but finding planets there is rare. That's because the area is covered with dust and debris, making it hard for telescopes to see. 'Discovering planets like this one lets us



Pictured: Baby planet, TIDYE-1b.
Source: @ExploreCosmos_ on X.

look back in time, catching a glimpse of planetary formation as it happens,' said Madyson Barber, one of the lead researchers. This exciting discovery challenges what we thought about how quickly planets can form.

What mysteries do you think space will reveal next?

How can we raise awareness of important issues?



We can make people listen, make sure animals are safe and not hurt. Alyza

The World's Most Expensive Banana!

A famous piece of art, featuring a banana taped to a wall, has been sold for almost five million pounds! The famous artwork by Italian artist, Maurizio Cattelan (created in 2019), is a fresh banana affixed to a wall with duct tape. Justin Sun, founder of cryptocurrency platform TRON, who bought the piece, said it, 'represents a cultural phenomenon that bridges the worlds of art, memes, and the cryptocurrency community.' Named the 'Comedian', what has actually been bought is a certificate of authenticity with detailed diagrams and instructions for its proper display. Justin added, 'In the coming days, I will personally eat the banana as part of this unique artistic experience, honouring its place



Pictured: Maurizio Cattelan's 'Comedian'.
Source: Sotheby's on X.

in both art history and popular culture.' Sotheby's New York salesroom announced that 'the world's most notorious banana just sold for \$6.2M.' The sale has created a lot of discussions, with many people voicing different opinions. Lucius Elliot, from Sotheby's, said, 'There has been much debate over whether this is art, whether it is a prank, whether it is a symbol of the excess of the art market. In truth, it is, of course, all of those things!'

Have you ever watched anything being sold at auction?

Would you like to?

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Tigers Return to Kazakhstan

Two captive Siberian tigers (also known as Amur tigers) have been translocated to the largest nation in Central Asia, Kazakhstan! The pair of tigers have been moved from the Anna Paulowna Sanctuary, in the Netherlands, to the Ile-Balkhash Nature Reserve in Kazakhstan. This is the beginning of a project to reintroduce a tiger population to the country. Starting with this breeding pair, the aim is to grow their numbers to fifty wild tigers by 2035. Daniyar Turgambayev, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan, said, 'It is a high priority for Kazakhstan to work on the restoration of rare species.'



Pictured: A Siberian tiger.
Source: Canva.

For ecological value, it is important that our biodiversity chain is restored. And that the tiger that once lived in this area is reintroduced here.' This is a world first, as the goal is to restore a tiger population to a nation where they were once extinct – if the tigers have babies, these cubs will be the first wild tigers there for over 70 years.

Have you ever seen a tiger?

Do you know any facts about Kazakhstan?

How can we raise awareness of important issues?



We can show and tell people how bad things will get in the environment unless we act now.

Thea

TAKE HOME

9th - 15th December



Should everyone have the opportunity to be a star?

WICKED



In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

- What have you heard about the film Wicked? Is it something you have seen or would like to see? Ask someone at home. Are they familiar with the story of The Wizard of Oz?
- Do you like performing on stage? Do you like other roles or responsibilities in plays or performances? Talk about the importance of each role and how our different strengths can all be celebrated.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

