

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

prosperous portent immemorial destined ward off hang onto staple put their own spin

5. Greeting Magpies. UK



“One for sorrow, Two for joy, Three for a funeral, Four for birth, Five for heaven, Six for hell, Seven for the devil, his own self.” There cannot be many birds in Britain that have had superstitious rhymes written about them, but the magpie certainly counts among that number! A single magpie has been regarded as a 1) _____ of doom since time 2) _____ — possibly stemming from the suggestion that the magpie was the only bird who didn’t comfort or mourn Jesus as he died on the cross. It’s also believed that it was the

only bird not to go into the ark with Noah and stayed on Earth while it fell apart. To this day many people still have a ritual to 3) _____ the perceived bad influence of the magpie. If one is seen on its own some people salute it and say: “I salute you Mr Magpie.” Many variations exist, others turn around three times and say: “Hello Mr Magpie, how are you today, where’s your wife, your child and your family?”

6. Doljabi. Korea



One of the traditions that many Koreans still 4) _____ is the celebration of their children’s first birthday called Doljanchi. This is a long-held Korean tradition, which was something truly worthy of celebration back in the day, when infant mortality rates were high. The primary purpose of the ceremony is to bless a child with a 5) _____ future and a healthy life ahead, but it’s also a fortune-telling event. Traditionally, a child is placed in front of 6) _____ objects (usually 6-8) like yarn, food or money and encouraged to grab one of them. It is believed that the object

the baby selects will foretell his or her future. For example, if a baby picks up a pencil, he will be 7) _____ to be an intellect. If a baby picks up money, he will be wealthy. In modern days, many parents get creative and 8) _____ on the event. They might place objects that are fitting to their liking and taste, e.g. a microphone for a singer/celebrity or a play knife and a cutting board for a chef. Obviously, you would only want to use items representing careers and lifestyle of bright futures!