Use a word from the list on the right to fill in the blanks of the “Old Wives’ Tales” you find on the left. You may only use each word once.

Scatter Solomon’s seal on the floor to banish _______ from the room.

To protect your house from ____________, gather hazel tree branches on Palm Sunday and keep them in water.

Add _____________ to chicken feed to keep poultry from wandering.

Stuff ___________ in your keyhole to protect against witches.

Never carry a _______ into the house. If you do so by mistake, carry it out again, walking backward to avoid bad luck.

Never walk under a ________, it brings bad luck.

If you give a ____________ to a friend, make the recipient pay you a penny to avoid cutting the friendship.

Never pound a _________ after sundown, or you will wake the tree gods.

Nail an ________________ to new rafters to bring good luck.

An ________________, hung high, will bring good luck to a house.

When you move to a new house, always enter first with a _________ and a new broom.

Never bring an old ______ into your home— it may still carry remnants of the past, and if it falls, it means company is coming.

Make sure you exit by the same _________ that you entered or you will never settle.

If you find a _____________ inside your home it means luck.

A _______ flying through a window means death.

If a _____________ land on your house it will soon burn down.

If a ________________ nests under the eaves you will be protected.

Ivy growing over the top of your house keeps you safe from _____________.

Never give a _________ as a housewarming present—your new neighbor will become an enemy.

Never sweep over a _____________ or you will sweep all the good luck out.
Old Wives Tales
About House and Home

ANSWER KEY

Scatter Solomon's seal on the floor to banish serpents from the room.

To protect your house from lightning, gather hazel tree branches on Palm Sunday and keep them in water.

Add caraway seeds to chicken feed to keep poultry from wandering.

Stuff fennel in your keyhole to protect against witches.

Never carry a hoe into the house. If you do so by mistake, carry it out again, walking backward to avoid bad luck.

Never walk under a ladder, it brings bad luck.

If you give a steel blade to a friend, make the recipient pay you a penny to avoid cutting the friendship.

Never pound a nail after sundown, or you will wake the tree gods.

Nail an evergreen branch to new rafters to bring good luck.

An empty hornets' nest, hung high, will bring good luck to a house.

When you move to a new house, always enter first with a loaf of bread and a new broom.

Never bring an old broom into your home- it may still carry remnants of the past, and if it falls, it means company is coming.

Make sure you exit by the same door that you entered or you will never settle.

If you find a grasshopper inside your home it means luck.

A bird flying through a window means death.

If a swarm of bees land on your house it will soon burn down.

If a swallow nests under the eaves you will be protected.

Ivy growing over the top of your house keeps you safe from black magic.

Never give a knife as a housewarming present -your new neighbor will become an enemy.

Never sweep over a threshold or you will sweep all the good luck out.

If you sweep trash out the door after dark, it will bring a stranger to visit.