

Reading Activity



Katie, The Ordinary Witch

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Chapter 1 : The Witch Who Was Frightened Of Halloween

Read by Natasha. Duration 8.52. Starts at 0:44.

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Katie.
Katie was seven.

And she lived in a nice house with her mum and a dog called Muffin.
And it was all quite normal really.

Except for one thing.

They were witches.

Well, except for Muffin, who was a D-witch, which is a dog who casts spells.
Anyway being a witch wasn't so bad.

Mum would just twitch her nose and all the cleaning would get done.

Dad would wave his stick, and the lawn would cut itself.

Muffin would click his paws, and a few dog treats would tumble out of the sky.
They'd even taught Katie some magic.

She knew how to make her homework do itself.

And her room got tidied just by twitching her ear.

But there was just one thing Katie really didn't like.

Halloween.

Once a year, when the leaves were falling off the trees, and the nights were getting longer, all the children in her school and along her street would get terribly excited about Halloween.

They made costumes of horrible looking witches.

With long pointy noses, and spots, and nasty black hats, and broomsticks.

And Katie said in school: "Witches aren't like that, really. My mum looks quite nice."

And all the other girls fell about laughing.

"Katie thinks she's a witch," they laughed. "She's ugly and horrible, just like a witch."

And when Katie went home that day, she was really upset.

She cried and cried and cried. And when her mum asked her what the matter was, she said:

“Everyone hates witches. And they especially hate them at Halloween.”

And her mum tried to explain that although some people didn’t like witches, it was also quite useful sometimes, like when the washing up got done all by itself.

“I don’t ever want to have anything to do with witch-craft again,” said Katie angrily.

But on Halloween night, all the girls from her school were organising a trick or treat tour of the street.

And Katie didn’t want to go, because she’d decided she didn’t want to have anything to do with witch-craft.

Never, never, never....

But her mum said she had to.

Because a witch can hardly stay in on Halloween.

And she whispered something in Katie’s ear.

Do you know what it was?

Well, I’ll tell you in a minute.

Anyway, Katie went to join the other girls.

And some of them started laughing at her.

“Katie doesn’t have to dress up, because she’s already a witch,” they laughed.

And Katie felt cross.

And embarrassed.

But she decided to say nothing.

At the first house, they got a load of sherbet lemons.

At the second, a jumbo pack of sweeties.

At the third, loads and loads of crisps.

And at the fourth, a giant packet of chocolate biscuits.

But at the fifth house, there lived a man called Mr Bones.

And Mr Bones didn’t like children.

He certainly didn’t see why he should give them any treats.

“Buzz off, you stupid kids,” he said when they knocked on the door.

“Trick or treat, trick or treat...” cried the girls.

“Yes, well, I think I’ll take the trick, if it’s all the same to you,” said Mr Bones.

And a horrible smile creased up his face.

“Because you’re just a bunch of stupid little girls, and you don’t scare me.”

“But one of us is a real witch,” said Amelia, the biggest of the girls.

“Yes, yes, Katie’s a real witch,” they all cried.

But Mr Bones just laughed and laughed.

“That’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard,” he said.

“Go on, Katie,” said Amelia. “Let’s see if you really are a witch.”

And so Katie stepped forwards.

“You don’t look scary to me,” said Mr Bones. “You’re just a stupid little girl.”

But Katie remembered what her mum had whispered in her ear.

Do you know what it was?

A special spell.

So right then, Katie recited the magic words.

And she wriggled her ear.

And all the girls gasped in amazement.

Because suddenly Mr Bones wasn’t Mr Bones anymore.

He was a little brown, fluffy hamster. Inside a cage. Running around and around on a wheel.

All the girls laughed and laughed.

Katie leaned into the cage.

"Is it fun being a hamster?"

The little creature squeaked and shook its head.

And Katie spun the wheel, so that he had to run faster and faster.

And then she recited the magic words and Mr Bones was turned back into a man again.

"I'll get you some treats, girls," he said very quickly and nervously.

And he came back with tons of chocolate bars, fizzy drinks, biscuits, and even a new Barbie DVD for each girl.

"Please come back next year girls," he said. "I'll have even better stuff for you."

And he went back inside, looking very nervous.

And as they went down the rest of the street, everyone had heard that there was a real witch out trick or treating tonight, so they all gave the girls even more sweets and biscuits than usual, and even some toys.

And Katie was the most popular girl in her class.

"You know, maybe it's not so bad being a witch after all," she said when she got home.

"And I think I'm going to enjoy Halloween from now on."

Questions de compréhension

1- Katie :

Age : Katie a 7 ans ("She was seven").

Membres de sa famille : Il y a sa maman ("her mum").

Il y a son papa ("dad").

Elle a un chien appelé Muffin ("a dog called Muffin").

Particularité de Katie et sa famille : Ce sont des sorciers ("They were witches").

2- Magie :

Membre de la famille

La mère de Katie

Le père de Katie

Muffin, le chien

Katie

Activité réalisée avec l'aide de la magie

Fait le nettoyage / ménage
("Mum would just twitch her nose and all the cleaning would get done.")

Tond la pelouse
("Dad would wave his stick, and the lawn would cut itself.")

Fait tomber des friandises du ciel
("Muffin would click his paws, and a few dog treats would tumble out of the sky.")

Ses devoirs se font tout seuls
("She knew how to make her homework do itself.")

Range sa chambre
("And her room got tidied just by twitching her ear.")

3- École

Que se passe-t-il à l'école à l'approche d'Halloween ?

Tous les enfants sont impatients à l'approche d'Halloween ("all the children in her school and along her street would get terribly excited about Halloween.")

Ils fabriquent des costumes qui représentent les sorcières comme des créatures horribles ("They made costumes of horrible looking witches. With long pointy noses, and spots, and nasty black hats, and broomsticks.")

Lorsque Katie révèle qu'elle vient d'une famille de sorciers, tout le monde se moque d'elle ("And all the other girls fell about laughing. "Katie thinks she's a witch," they laughed. "She's ugly and horrible, just like a witch.")

Comment Katie se sent-elle après ça ?

Elle est triste et en colère ("And when Katie went home that day, she was really upset. She cried and cried and cried.")

Elle décide qu'elle déteste le fait d'être une sorcière et ne veut plus jamais faire de magie ("I don't ever want to have anything to do with witch-craft again," said Katie angrily.")

4- Trick or Treat

Comment peux-tu décrire Mr Bones ?

Il n'aime pas les enfants ("And Mr Bones didn't like children.")

Il est malpoli ("rude" en anglais) ("Buzz off, you stupid kids," he said when they knocked on the door.")

Que Katie lui fait-elle ?

Elle le transforme en hamster ("He was a little brown, fluffy hamster. Inside a cage. Running around and around on a wheel.")

Que pense-t-elle d'Halloween à la fin de l'histoire ?

Elle pense que ce n'est pas si mal finalement, tout comme le fait d'être une sorcière ("And I think I'm going to enjoy Halloween from now on.")

Vocabulaire utile repéré dans le texte :

to laugh (v): rire

a witch (n): une sorcière

a broomstick (n): un balai

ugly (adj): laid(e), moche

upset (adj): bouleversé(e), peiné(e)

to cry (v): pleurer

trick or treat : un bonbon ou un sort
(to go trick or treating = l'activité de faire du porte à porte à Halloween)

to dress up (v): se déguiser

to scare (v): faire peur, effrayer

a spell (n): un sort