

Comparing and Contrasting Witches in Children's Literature



As September comes to an end, and October rolls around, I like for my students to start a novel with a Halloween theme. These are not necessarily Halloween books, but ones that have themes that represent the season. For younger students, *Stellaluna* with its bat theme is a great choice. I have used *Harry Potter* (wizards) and *The SpiderwickChronicles* (all types of creatures). This free printable includes several witch activities that can be used while reading Roald Dahl's book *The Witches*.

Comparing and Contrasting Two Witches

By teaching a novel with a theme, the difficult Common Core Skill RL.9 compare and contrast becomes much easier. Whether you are comparing themes, setting, and plots by the same author (3rd grade), similar themes and topics (4th grade), stories in the same genre (5th grade), or different forms (6th grade), using a Halloween theme makes the writing projects fun and interesting for students. In this set of free printables, you'll receive a printable for students to compare the Grand High Witch from Dahl's *The Witches* to the Wicked Witch of the West in Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

The next printable has students comparing a number of well-known witches from children's literature. These include several fairy tale witches such as the witches from *Sleeping Beauty* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

Instructions

On the next seven pages, you will find excerpts from seven children's stories that contain witches:

- Hansel and Gretel
- Rapunzel
- Sleeping Beauty
- Snowdrop
- Ursula from The Little Mermaid
- The Wicked Witch of the West from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
- The Grand High Witch from The Witches

Following the excerpts are graphic organizers for students to use to compare and contrast the witches.

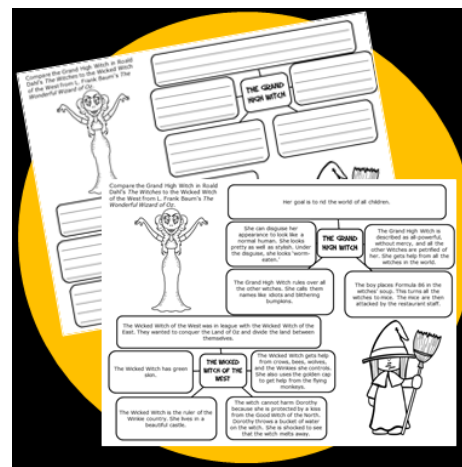
Additional witches from children's literature include:

Mean Witches

- The White Witch from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Good Witches

- Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Whatsit from A Wrinkle in Time
- Hermione Granger from the Harry Potter Series
- The Good Witches of Oz ~ Glinda and the Good Witch of the South



More Activities

Name the Witch in Children's Literature - Trivia Activity

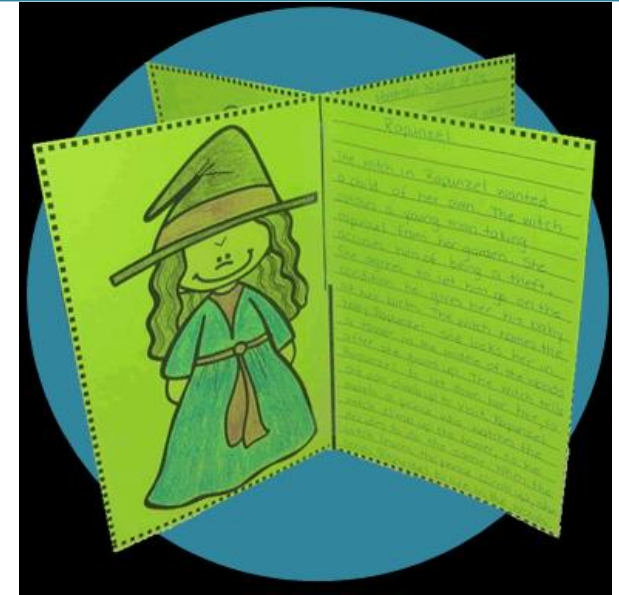
Clue	Witch's Name	Book/Story	Author
1. The witch makes winter last forever with no Christmas.			
2. This green-skinned witch sends flying monkeys after Dorothy.			
3. The witch is the sister of Ron Weasley.			
4. This is the sorceress who helps Ariel become human.			
5. These three Mummy children on their quest.			
6. These are 9 of Oz.			
7. This ring gives Ella the power.			
8. This character from the Arthurian Series sends a Magic Tree House to Jack and Annie to travel on their adventures.			
9. This witch doctor helps the villagers by curing headaches, helping single women find husbands, and robbing people of warts. She has a magic pot that produces large amounts of cooked pasta.			
10. This wicked queen wanted to be the fairest in the land.			

Name the Witch in Children's Literature - Trivia Activity

Clue	Witch's Name	Book/Story	Author
1. The witch makes winter last forever with no Christmas.	The White Witch (Jadis, Queen of Charn)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C. S. Lewis
2. This green-skinned witch sends flying monkeys after Dorothy.	The Wicked Witch of the West	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum
3. The witch is the sister of Ron Weasley.	Hermione Granger	Harry Potter Series	J. K. Rowling
4. This is the sorceress who helps Ariel become human.	Ursula the Sea Witch	The Little Mermaid	Hans Christian Andersen
5. These three Mummy children on their quest.	Mrs. Wilt, Mrs. Wiltch, and Mrs. Wiltat	A Wrinkle in Time	Maddeline L. Tingle
6. These are 9 of Oz.	Gilda and the Good Witch of the South	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum
7. This ring gives Ella the power.	Lucinda	Ella Enchanted	Gail Carson Levine
8. This character from the Arthurian Series sends a Magic Tree House to Jack and Annie to travel on their adventures.	Morgan Le Fay	The Magic Tree House Series	Mary Pope Osborne
9. This witch doctor helps the villagers by curing headaches, helping single women find husbands, and robbing people of warts. She has a magic pot that produces large amounts of cooked pasta.	Striga Nona	Striga Nona	Tomie dePaola
10. This wicked queen wanted to be the fairest in the land.	Evil Queen	Snowdrop (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs)	The Grimm Brothers

Comparing Witches Craftivity

Students will enjoy making this free standing witch craft activity. Four different witches from children's literature are compared. Instructions are included on page 15.



Witch Trivia

On the day of your Halloween party, many witch themed activities make the party both fun and a learning experience for your students. This printable has students listing famous witches from children's literature. I like to divide students into small groups. I time the activity. The group with the most correct answers at the end of the allotted time receives token prizes. This can be anything from homework passes to school supplies. Students love the friendly competition.

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Acrostic

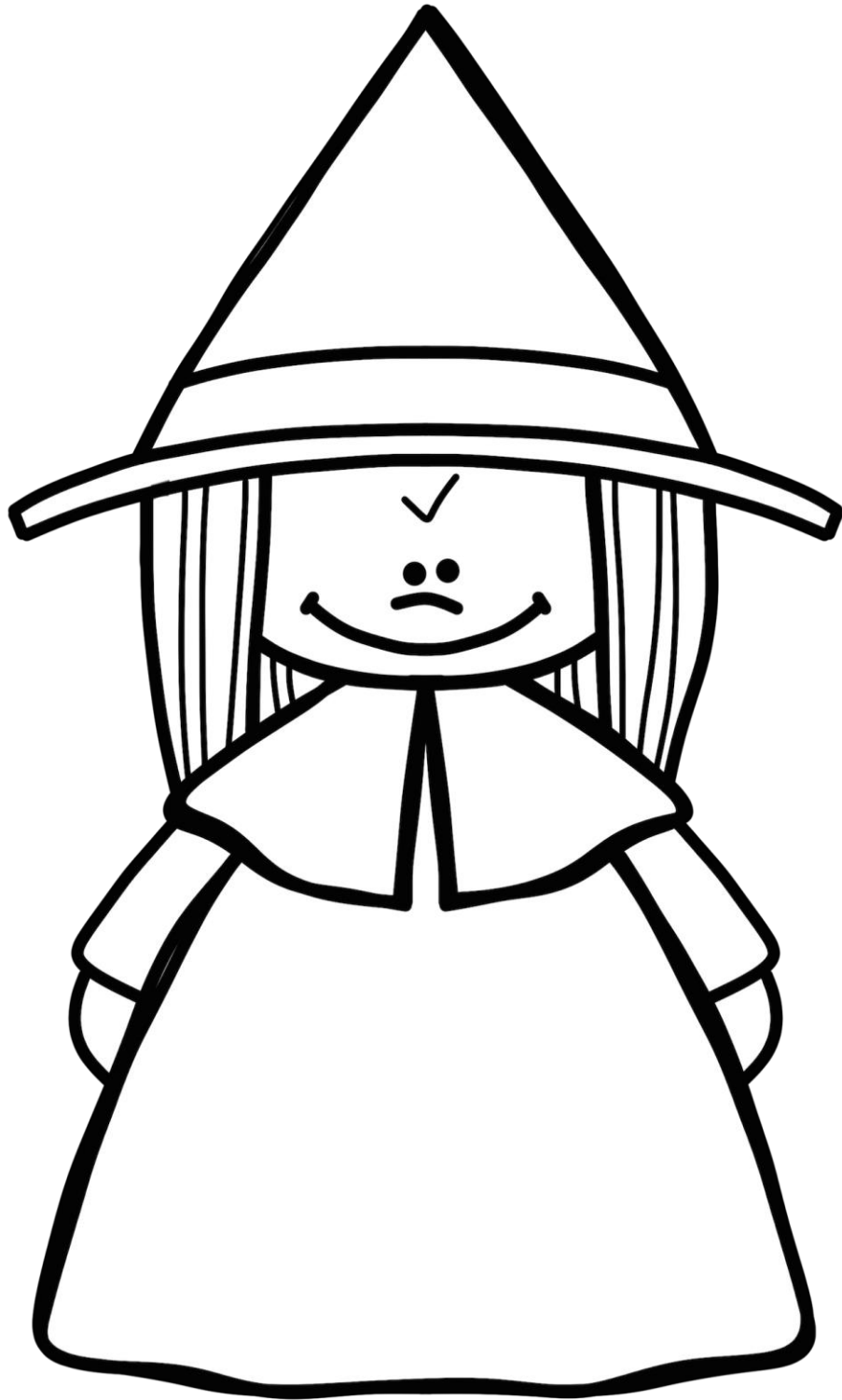
An acrostic printable is also included. I purposely left off instructions for this page to make it adaptable for many needs. You can have students summarize one specific chapter from *The Witches* by using this form or witches in general.



A Witch's Brew

Another activity I enjoy doing with my students is have them bring in ingredients to make their own party snacks. Here we are creating a punch in a witch's cauldron. The mixture bubbles and foams. Students love creating their own snacks and following directions can be taught. This printable includes this punch recipe.

Excerpt from Hansel and Gretel by the Grimm Brothers



But the old woman shook her head and said, "Oh, you dear children, who brought you here? Just come in and stay with me. No harm will come to you."

She took them by the hand and led them into her house. Then she served them a good meal: milk and pancakes with sugar, apples, and nuts. Afterward she made two nice beds for them, decked in white. Hansel and Gretel went to bed, thinking they were in heaven. But the old woman had only pretended to be friendly. She was a wicked witch who was lying in wait there for children. She had built her house of bread only in order to lure them to her, and if she captured one, she would kill him, cook him, and eat him; and for her that was a day to celebrate.

Witches have red eyes and cannot see very far, but they have a sense of smell like animals, and know when humans are approaching.

When Hansel and Gretel came near to her, she laughed wickedly and spoke scornfully, "Now I have them. They will not get away from me again."

Early the next morning, before they awoke, she got up, went to their beds, and looked at the two of them lying there so peacefully, with their full red cheeks. "They will be a good mouthful," she mumbled to herself. Then she grabbed Hansel with her withered hand and carried him to a little stall, where she locked him behind a cage door. Cry as he might, there was no help for him.

Then she shook Gretel and cried, "Get up, lazybones! Fetch water and cook something good for your brother. He is locked outside in the stall and is to be fattened up. When he is fat I am going to eat him."

Excerpt from Rapunzel by the Grimm Brothers



Oh," he answered, "Let mercy overrule justice. I came to do this out of necessity. My wife saw your rapunzel from our window, and such a longing came over her, that she would die, if she did not get some to eat."

The sorceress's anger abated somewhat, and she said, "If things are as you say, I will allow you to take as much rapunzel as you want. But under one condition: You must give me the child that your wife will bring to the world. It will do well, and I will take care of it like a mother."

In his fear the man agreed to everything.

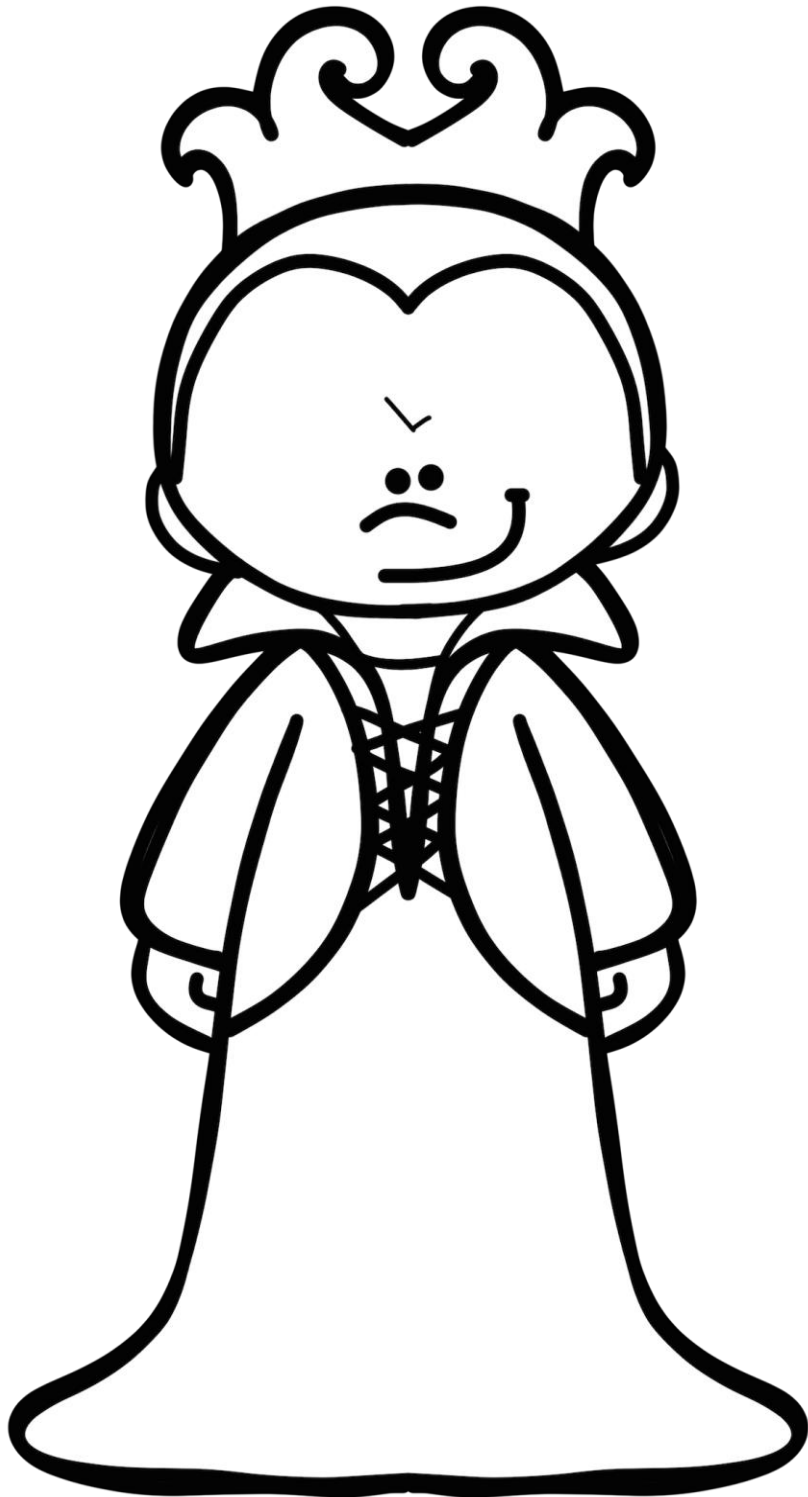
When the woman gave birth, the sorceress appeared, named the little girl Rapunzel, and took her away. Rapunzel became the most beautiful child under the sun. When she was twelve years old, the fairy locked her in a tower that stood in a forest and that had neither a door nor a stairway, but only a tiny little window at the very top.

When the sorceress wanted to enter, she stood below and called out:

Rapunzel, Rapunzel,
Let down your hair to me.

Rapunzel had splendid long hair, as fine as spun gold. When she heard the sorceress's voice, she untied her braids, wound them around a window hook, let her hair fall twenty yards to the ground, and the sorceress climbed up it.

Excerpt from Sleeping Beauty by Charles Perrault



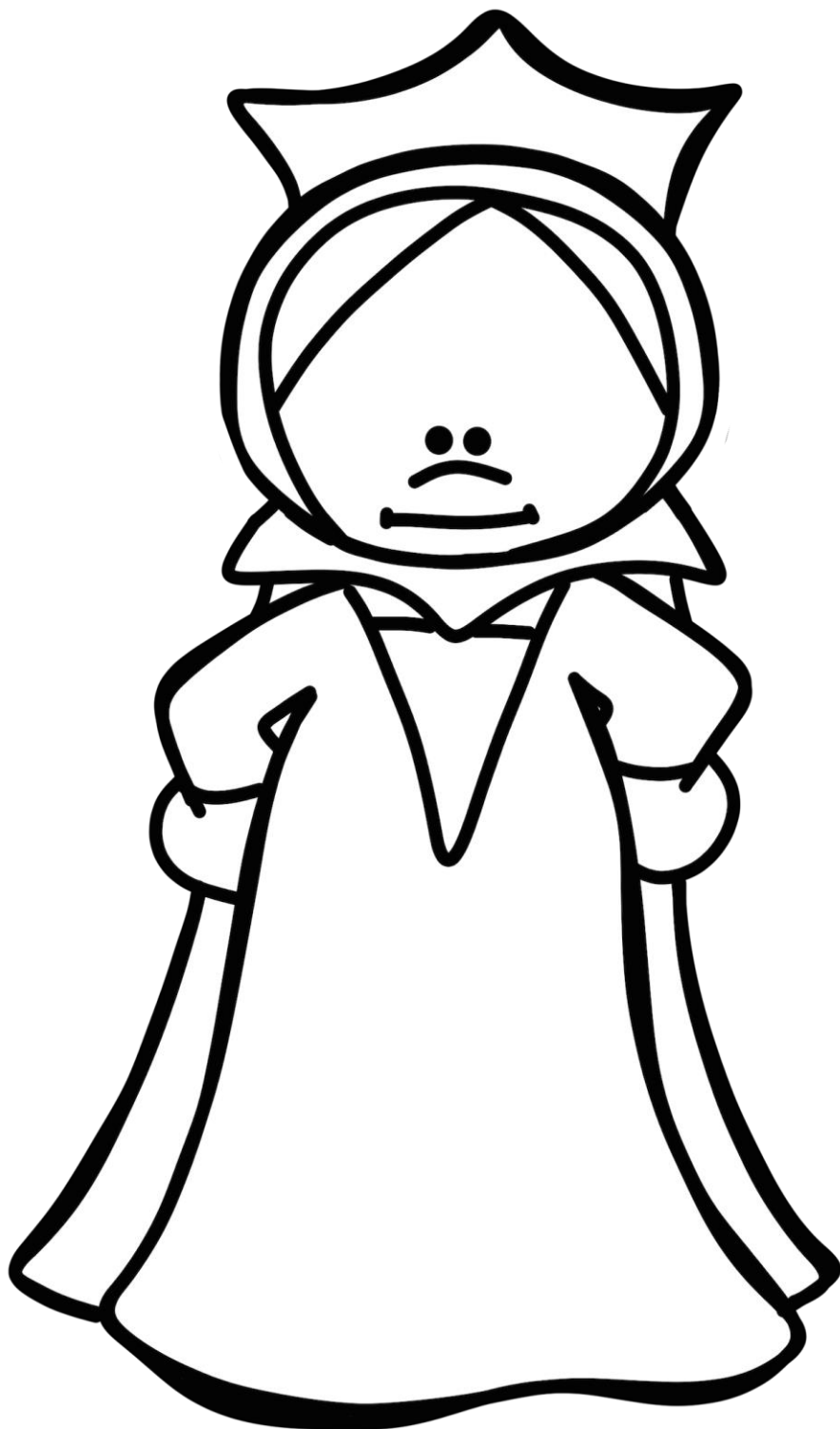
n the meanwhile all the fairies began to give their gifts to the princess. The youngest gave her for gift that she should be the most beautiful person in the world; the next, that she should have the wit of an angel; the third, that she should have a wonderful grace in everything she did; the fourth, that she should dance perfectly well; the fifth, that she should sing like a nightingale; and the sixth, that she should play all kinds of music to the utmost perfection.

The old fairy's turn coming next, with a head shaking more with spite than age, she said that the princess should have her hand pierced with a spindle and die of the wound. This terrible gift made the whole company tremble, and everybody fell a crying.

At this very instant the young fairy came out from behind the hangings, and spake these words aloud: "Assure yourselves, O King and Queen, that your daughter shall not die of this disaster. It is true, I have no power to undo entirely what my elder has done. The princess shall indeed pierce her hand with a spindle; but, instead of dying, she shall only fall into a profound sleep, which shall last a hundred years, at the expiration of which a king's son shall come and awake her."

The king, to avoid the misfortune foretold by the old fairy, caused immediately proclamation to be made, whereby everybody was forbidden, on pain of death, to spin with a distaff and spindle, or to have so much as any spindle in their houses. About fifteen or sixteen years after, the king and queen being gone to one of their houses of pleasure, the young princess happened one day to divert herself in running up and down the palace; when going up from one apartment to another, she came into a little room on the top of the tower, where a good old woman, alone, was spinning with her spindle. This good woman had never heard of the king's proclamation against spindles.

Excerpt from Snowdrop by the Grimm Brothers



'Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is fairest of us all?'

Then the glass answered,

'Queen, thou'rt fairest of them all.'

She was content, for she knew that the looking-glass spoke the truth.

Snowdrop grew up and became more and more beautiful. When she was seven years old, she was as beautiful as the day. Her beauty far surpassed the queen's. One day when the queen asked her glass,

'Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is fairest of us all?'

It answered—

'Queen, thou art the fairest one here. Snowdrop is fairer a thousandfold.'

Then the Queen was horror-struck, and turned green and yellow with jealousy. From the hour that she saw Snowdrop, her heart sank. She hated the little girl.

The pride and envy of her heart grew like a weed, so that she had no rest day nor night. At last she called a huntsman. She said, 'Take the child out into the wood. I will not set eyes on her again. You must kill her.'

The huntsman obeyed. He took Snowdrop out into the forest, but when he drew his hunting-knife and was preparing to plunge it into her innocent heart, she began to cry.

'Please! dear huntsman, spare my life. I will run away into the wild forest and never come back again.'

Because of her beauty, the huntsman took pity on her. He said, 'Well, run away, poor child.' Wild beasts will soon devour you, he thought. Still he felt as though a weight were lifted from his heart because he had not been obliged to kill her.

The Little Mermaid by Hans Christian Andersen



"I know what you want," said the sea witch; "it is very stupid of you, but you shall have your way, and it will bring you to sorrow, my pretty princess. You want to get rid of your fish's tail, and to have two supports instead of it, like human beings on earth, so that the young prince may fall in love with you, and that you may have an immortal soul." And then the witch laughed so loud and disgustingly, that the toad and the snakes fell to the ground, and lay there wriggling about. "You are but just in time," said the witch; "for after sunrise to-morrow I should not be able to help you till the end of another year. I will prepare a draught for you, with which you must swim to land tomorrow before sunrise, and sit down on the shore and drink it. Your tail will then disappear, and shrink up into what mankind calls legs, and you will feel great pain, as if a sword were passing through you. But all who see you will say that you are the prettiest little human being they ever saw. You will still have the same floating gracefulness of movement, and no dancer will ever tread so lightly; but at every step you take it will feel as if you were treading upon sharp knives, and that the blood must flow. If you will bear all this, I will help you."

[...] "But I must be paid also," said the witch, "and it is not a trifle that I ask. You have the sweetest voice of any who dwell here in the depths of the sea, and you believe that you will be able to charm the prince with it also, but this voice you must give to me; the best thing you possess will I have for the price of my draught. "

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum



There was, in her cupboard, a Golden Cap, with a circle of diamonds and rubies running round it. This Golden Cap had a charm. Whoever owned it could call three times upon the Winged Monkeys, who would obey any order they were given. But no person could command these strange creatures more than three times. Twice already the Wicked Witch had used the charm of the Cap. Once was when she had made the Winkies her slaves, and set herself to rule over their country. The Winged Monkeys had helped her do this. The second time was when she had fought against the Great Oz himself, and driven him out of the land of the West. The Winged Monkeys had also helped her in doing this. Only once more could she use this Golden Cap, for which reason she did not like to do so until all her other powers were exhausted. But now that her fierce wolves and her wild crows and her stinging bees were gone, and her slaves had been scared away by the Cowardly Lion, she saw there was only one way left to destroy Dorothy and her friends.

So the Wicked Witch took the Golden Cap from her cupboard and placed it upon her head. Then she stood upon her left foot and said slowly:

"Ep-pe, pep-pe, kak-ke!"

Next she stood upon her right foot and said:

"Hil-lo, hol-lo, hel-lo!"

After this she stood upon both feet and cried in a loud voice:

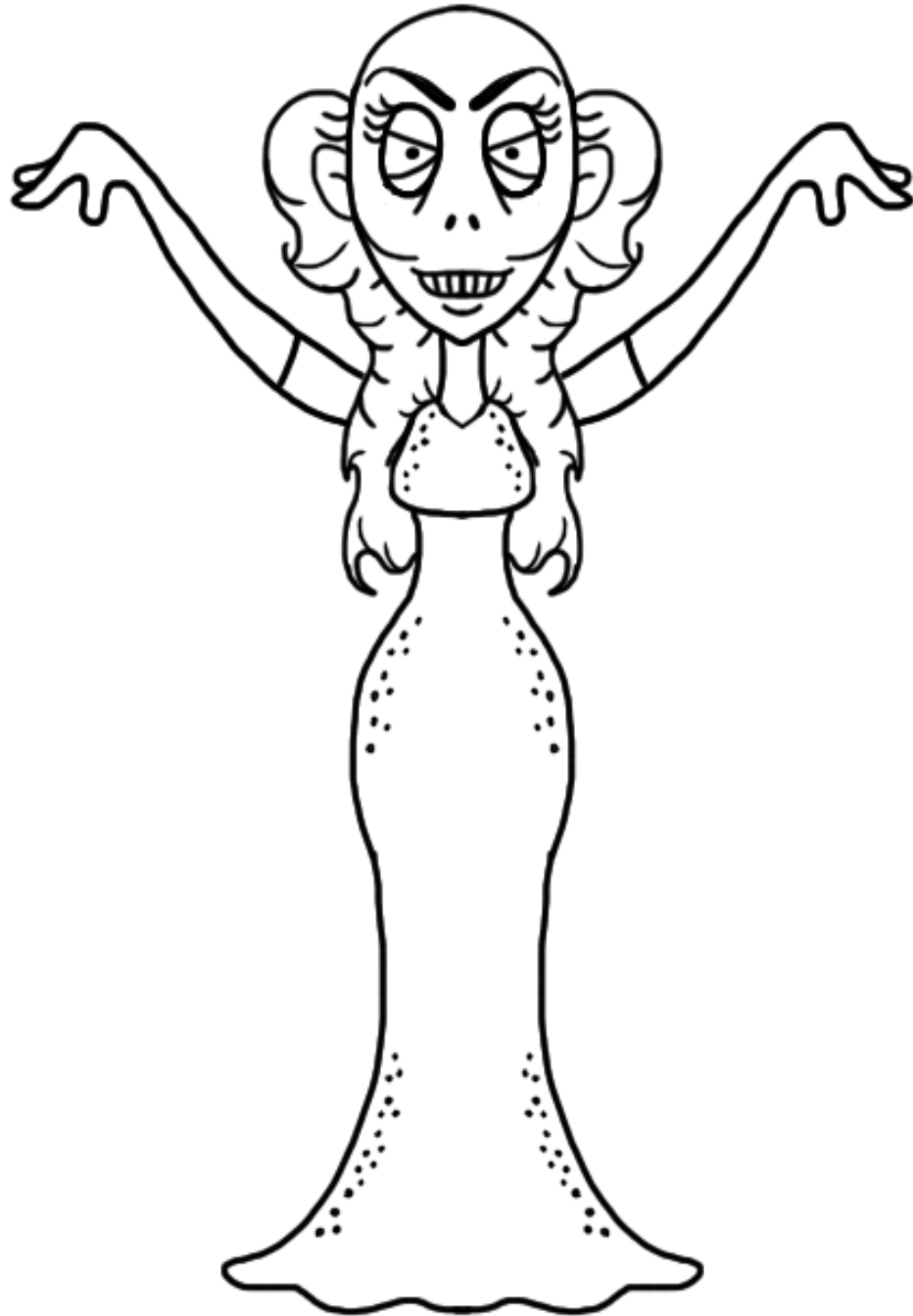
"Ziz-zy, zuz-zy, zik!"

Now the charm began to work. The sky was darkened, and a low rumbling sound was heard in the air. There was a rushing of many wings, a great chattering and laughing, and the sun came out of the dark sky to show the Wicked Witch surrounded by a crowd of monkeys, each with a pair of immense and powerful wings on his shoulders.

One, much bigger than the others, seemed to be their leader. He flew close to the Witch and said, "You have called us for the third and last time. What do you command?"

"Go to the strangers who are within my land and destroy them all except the Lion," said the Wicked Witch. "Bring that beast to me, for I have a mind to harness him like a horse, and make him work."

Excerpt from *The Witches* by Roald Dahl



"I am having my breakfast this morning," cried The Grand High Witch, "and I am looking out of the vindow at the beach, and vot am I seeing? I am asking you, *vot am I seeing?* I am seeing a rrrrevolting sight! I am seeing hundreds, I am seeing *thousands* of rrrotten rrrrepulsive little children playing on the sand! It is putting me rrright off my food! *Vye have you not got rrrid of them?*" she screamed. "Vye have you not rrrubbed them all out; these filthy smelly children?"

With each word she spoke, flecks of pale-blue phlegm shot from her mouth like little bullets.

"I am asking youvye! " she screamed. Nobody answered her question.

"Children smell!" she screamed. "They stink out the vurld! Vee do not vont these children around here!"

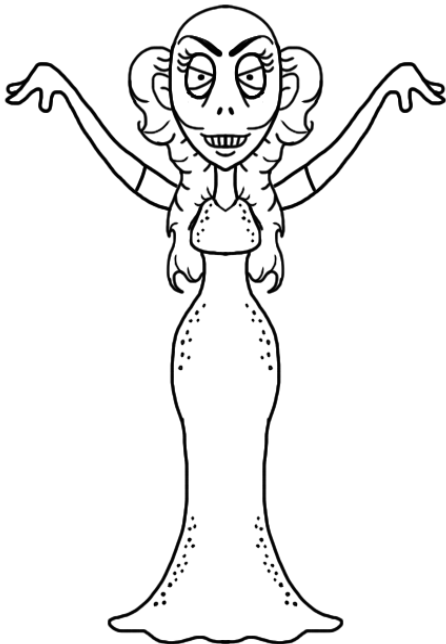
The bald heads in the audience all nodded vigorously.

"Vun child a veek is no good to me!" The Grand High Witch cried out. "Is that the best you can do?"

"We will do better," murmured the audience. "We will do much better."

"Better is no good either!" shrieked The Grand High Witch. "I demand maximum rrrree-sults! So here are my orders! My orders are that every single child in this country shall be rrrubbed out, sqvashed, sqvirtd, sqvittered and frrrittered before I come here again in vun year's time! Do I make myself clear?"

Compare the Grand High Witch in Roald Dahl's *The Witches* to the Wicked Witch of the West from L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

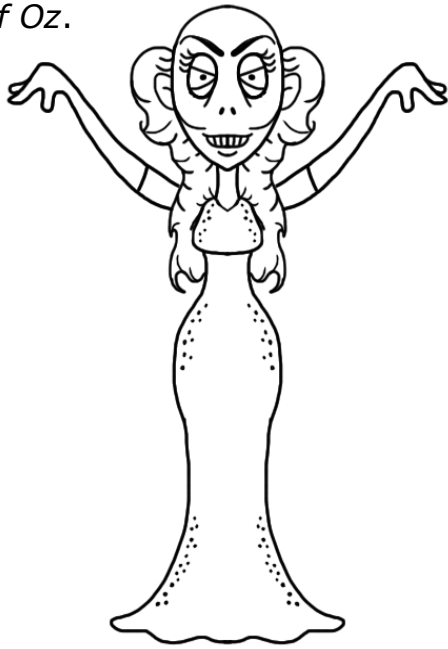


**THE GRAND
HIGH WITCH**

**THE WICKED
WITCH OF THE
WEST**



Compare the Grand High Witch in Roald Dahl's *The Witches* to the Wicked Witch of the West from L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.



Her goal is to rid the world of all children.

She can disguise her appearance to look like a normal human. She looks pretty as well as stylish. Under the disguise, she looks 'worm-eaten.'

THE GRAND HIGH WITCH

The Grand High Witch is described as all-powerful, without mercy, and all the other Witches are petrified of her. She gets help from all the witches in the world.

The Grand High Witch rules over all the other witches. She calls them names like idiots and blithering bumpkins.

The boy places Formula 86 in the witches' soup. This turns all the witches to mice. The mice are then attacked by the restaurant staff.

The Wicked Witch of the West was in league with the Wicked Witch of the East. They wanted to conquer the Land of Oz and divide the land between themselves.

The Wicked Witch has green skin.

THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

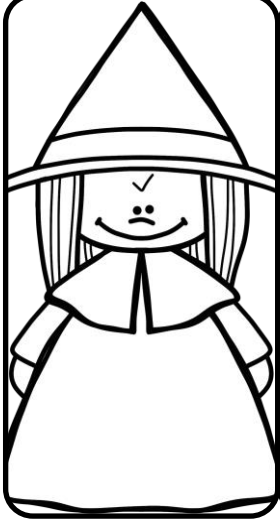
The Wicked Witch gets help from crows, bees, wolves, and the Winkies she controls. She also uses the golden cap to get help from the flying monkeys.

The Wicked Witch is the ruler of the Winkie country. She lives in a beautiful castle.

The witch cannot harm Dorothy because she is protected by a kiss from the Good Witch of the North. Dorothy throws a bucket of water on the witch. She is shocked to see that the witch melts away.



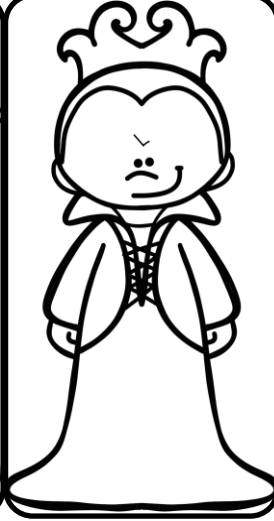
Hansel
and
Gretel



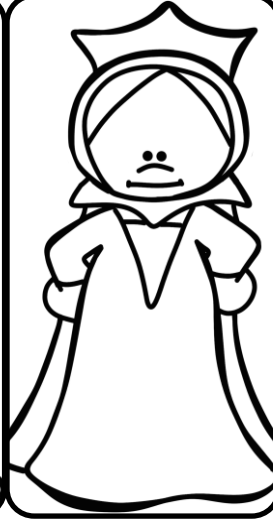
Rapunzel



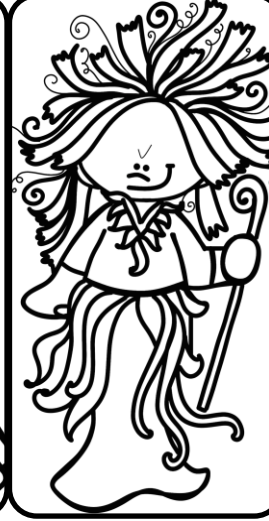
Sleeping
Beauty



Snowdrop



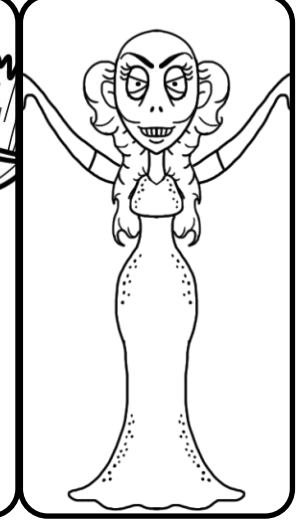
Little
Mermaid



The
Wizard of
Oz



The
Witches



Goal

Downfall

Goal

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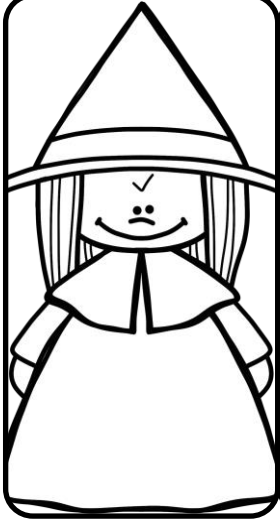
Goal

Downfall

Goal

Downfall

Hansel and Gretel



Goal

The witch wanted to fatten up Hansel to eat him.

Downfall

Gretel pushed her into the oven.

Rapunzel



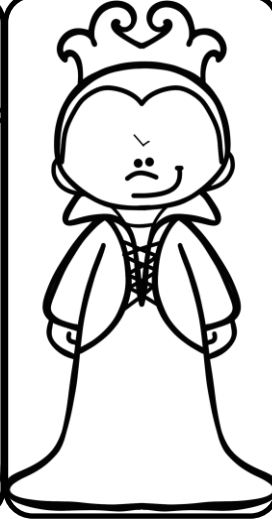
Goal

She wanted a child of her own.

Downfall

When she learns Rapunzel lets the Prince climb up her tower, the witch sends Rapunzel into the woods to fend for herself. The prince finds Rapunzel, and they have a happy ending.

Sleeping Beauty



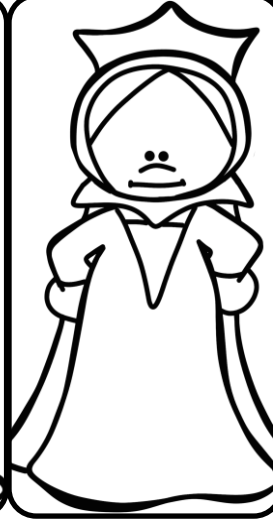
Goal

The evil witch wanted revenge on the King and Queen for not inviting her to feast to celebrate the birth of their daughter.

Downfall

She did not know one fairy had not given Beauty a gift. This fairy counteracted the death wish to a 100 year sleep instead.

Snowdrop (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs)



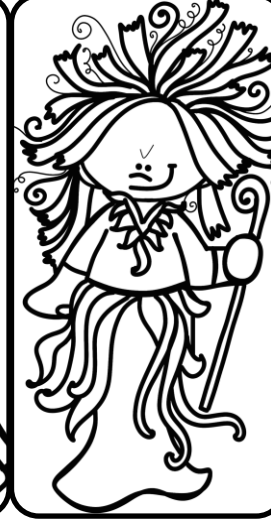
Goal

The wicked queen wanted to be the fairest in the land.

Downfall

The Prince's love for Snowdrop awakened her. When the queen saw the young queen at the wedding, she recognized Snowdrop and dropped dead from fear.

Little Mermaid



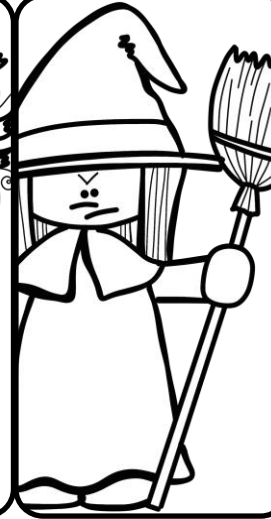
Goal

Ursula traded Ariel's voice for a pair of legs.

Downfall

Ursula plays a minor role in the story by Hans Christian Anderson.

The Wizard of Oz



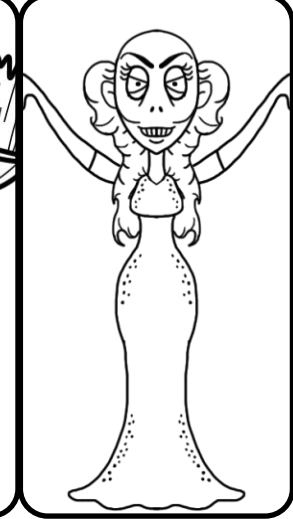
Goal

The Wicked Witch of the West wants to rule over the Land of Oz. She wants Dorothy's silver shoes to increase her power.

Downfall

She is melted by a bucket of water.

The Witches



Goal

The Grand High Witch wants to rid the world of all children. She does this by turning them into mice and other creatures.

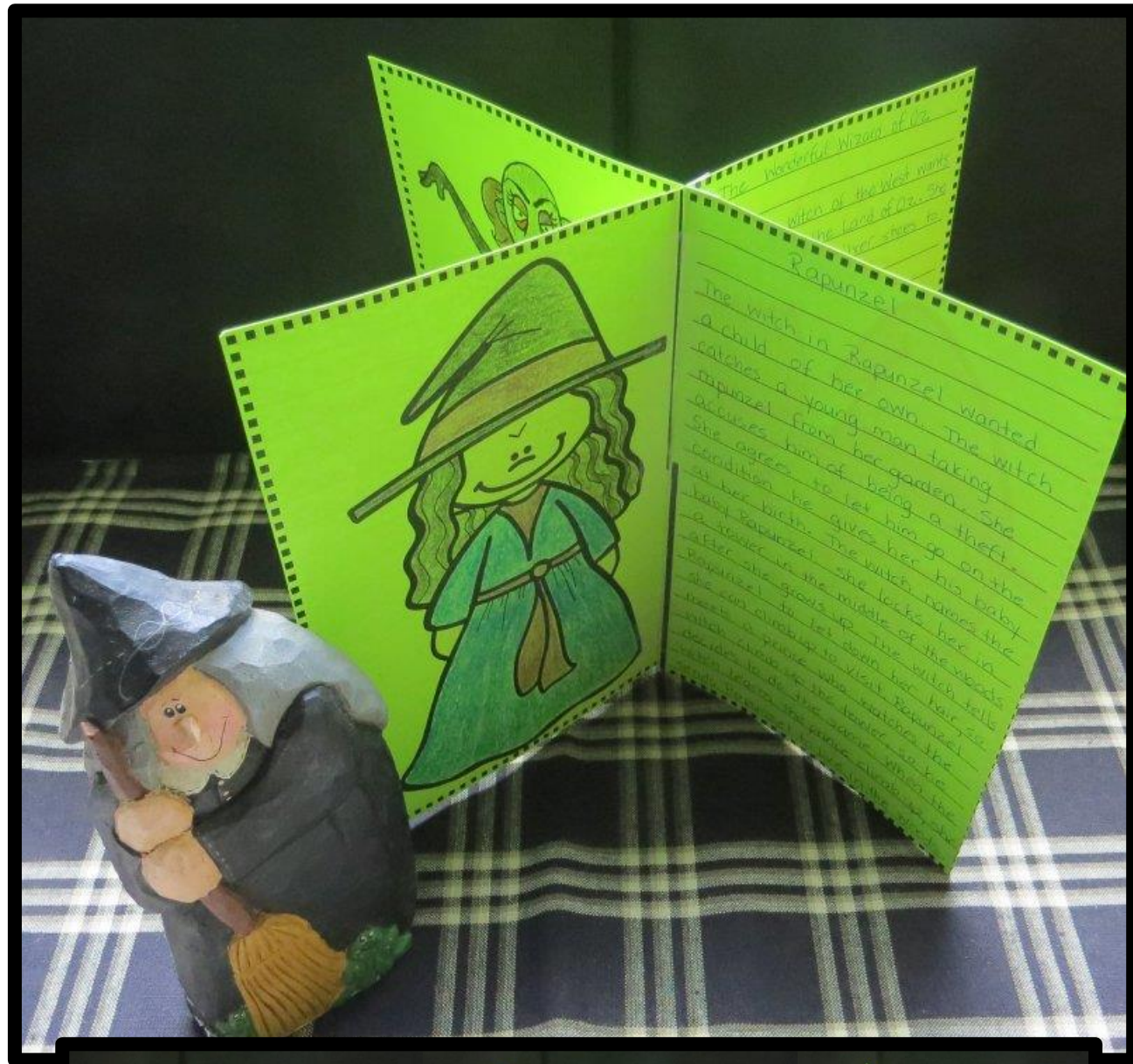
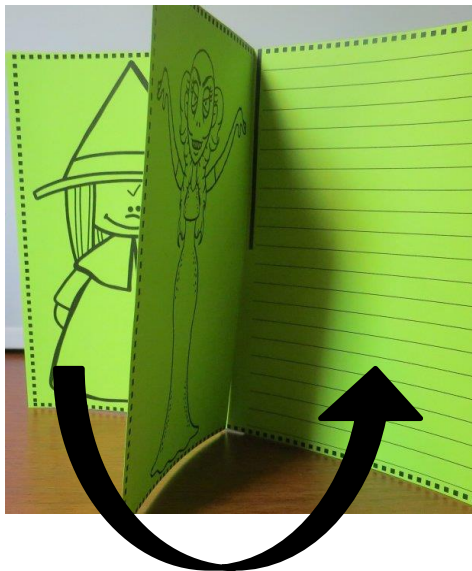
Downfall

She is given some of her own magical potion, Formula 86, and is turned into a mouse.

Instructions:

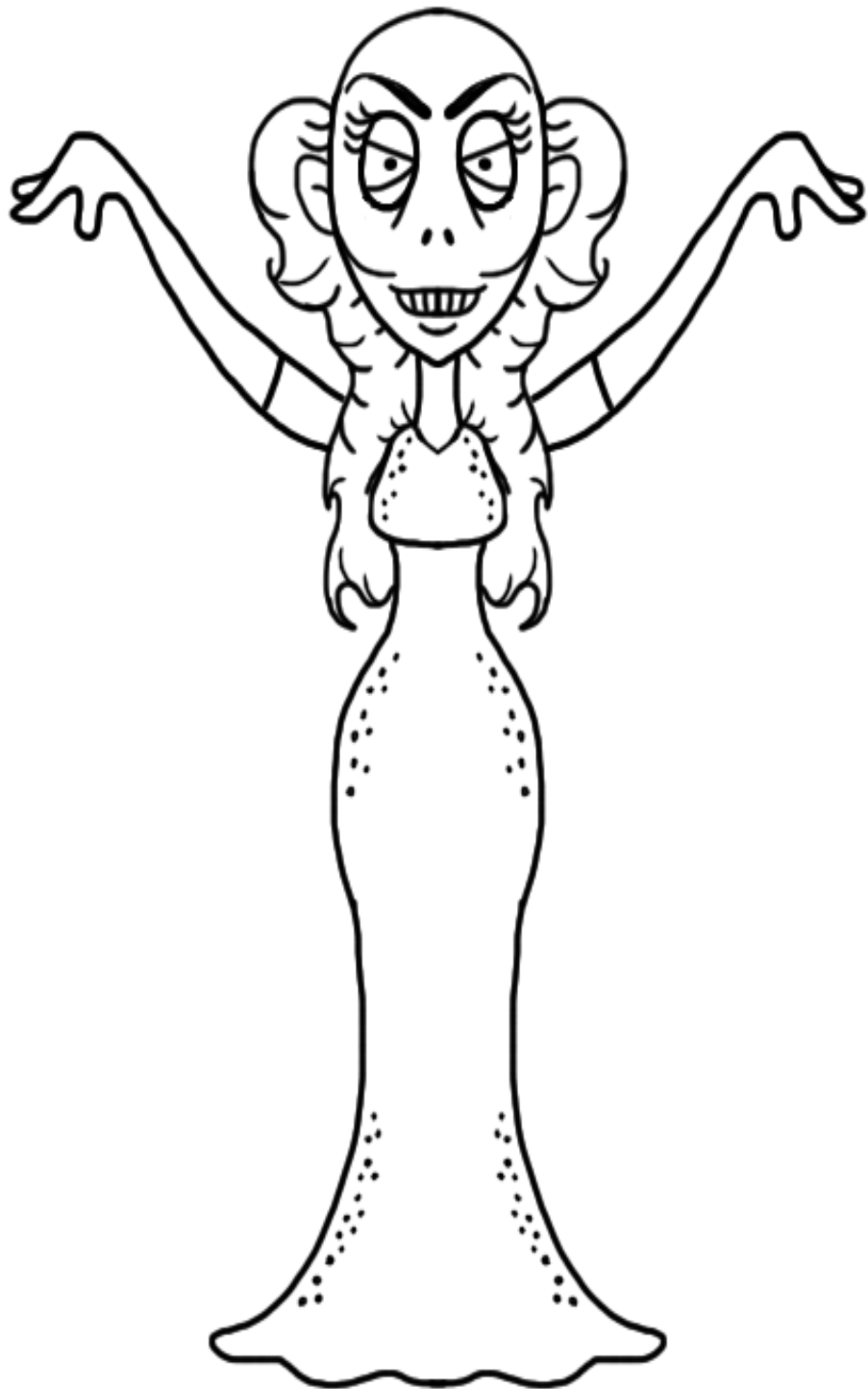
1. Print the pages front-to-back onto heavyweight paper or cardstock. [Page 16 will be on the front and page 17 will be on the back. Likewise page 18 will be on the front and page 19 will be on the back.]
2. Cut the first page on the solid line from the bottom up to the center of the card.
3. Cut the second card on the solid line from the top down to the center of the card.
4. Have student slide the two pages together.

Important: It is important to assemble the cards before students write because otherwise many will write on the wrong card. The lines adjacent to each witch before assembling will not be the same once the craftivity is made.



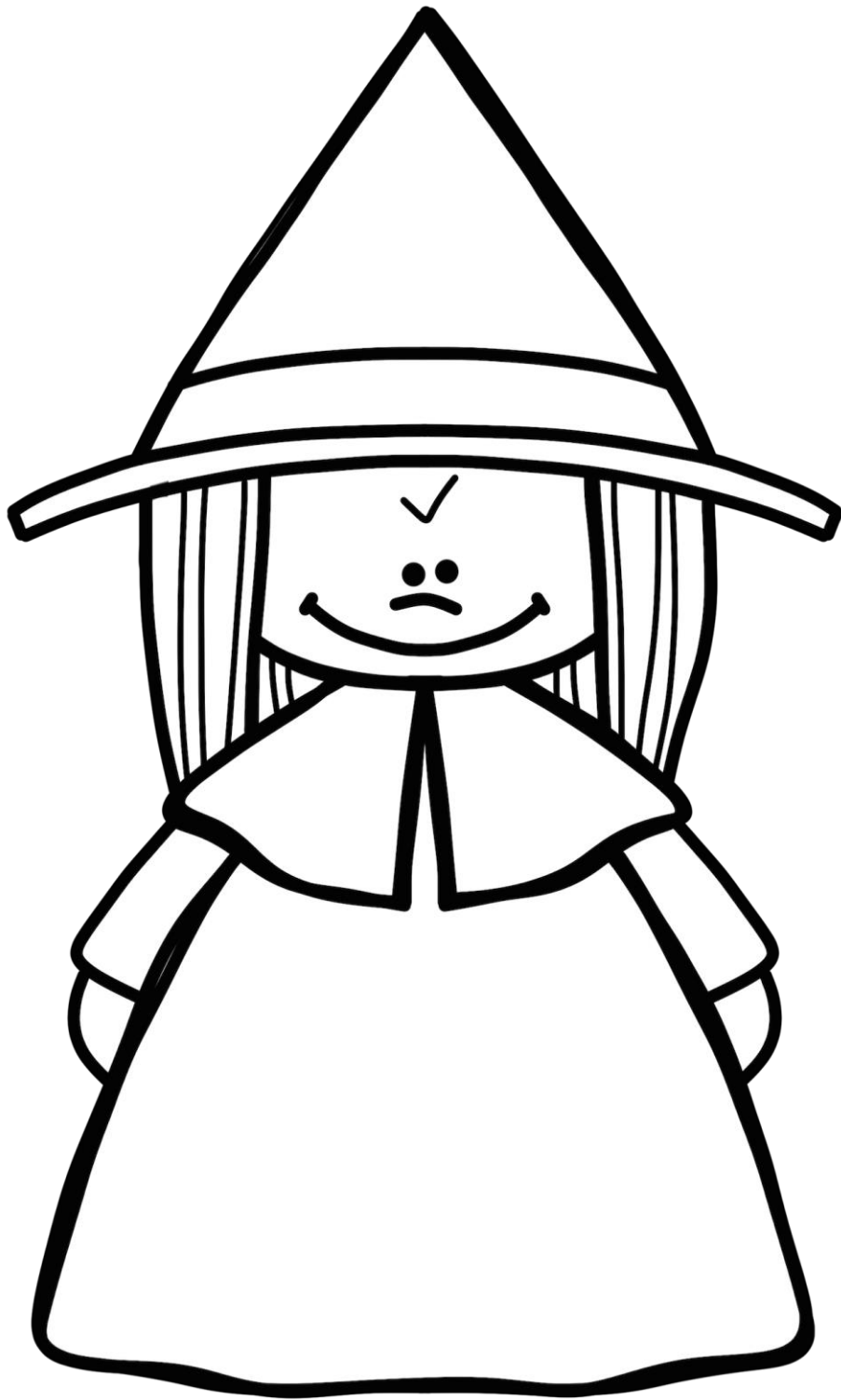


A series of horizontal lines for writing, located to the right of the vertical line.





A series of horizontal lines for writing, located to the right of the witch illustration. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

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Name the Witch in Children's Literature ~ Trivia Activity

Clue	Witch's Name	Book/Story	Author
1. This witch makes winter last forever in Narnia with no Christmas.			
2. This green skinned witch sends flying monkeys after Dorothy.			
3. The witch is the sister of Ron Weasley.			
4. This is the sorceress who helps Ariel become human.			
5. These three celestial beings transport the Murray children to Camazotz and instruct them on their quest to rescue their father.			
6. These are the two good witches in the Land of Oz.			
7. This misguided and obnoxious fairy/witch gives Ella the "gift of obedience."			
8. This character from the Arthurian Series sends a Magic Tree House to Jack and Annie to travel on their adventures.			
9. This witch doctor helps the villagers by curing headaches, helping single women find husbands, and ridding people of warts. She has a magic pot that produces large amounts of cooked pasta.			
10. This wicked queen wanted to be the fairest in the land.			

Name the Witch in Children's Literature ~ Trivia Activity

Clue	Witch's Name	Book/Story	Author
1. This witch makes winter last forever in Narnia with no Christmas.	The White Witch (Jadis, Queen of Charn)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C. S. Lewis
2. This green skinned witch sends flying monkeys after Dorothy.	The Wicked Witch of the West	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum
3. The witch is the sister of Ron Weasley.	Ginny Weasley	Harry Potter Series	J. K. Rowling
4. This is the sorceress who helps Ariel become human.	Ursula the Sea Witch	The Little Mermaid	Hans Christian Andersen
5. These three celestial beings transport the Murray children to Camazotz and instruct them on their quest to rescue their father.	Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Whatsit	A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle
6. These are the two good witches in the Land of Oz.	Glinda and the Good Witch of the South	The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum
7. This misguided and obnoxious fairy/witch gives Ella the "gift of obedience."	Lucinda	Ella Enchanted	Gail Carson Levine
8. This character from the Arthurian Series sends a Magic Tree House to Jack and Annie to travel on their adventures.	Morgan La Fey	The Magic Tree House Series	Mary Pope Osborne
9. This witch doctor helps the villagers by curing headaches, helping single women find husbands, and ridding people of warts. She has a magic pot that produces large amounts of cooked pasta.	Strega Nona	Strega Nona	Tomie dePaola
10. This wicked queen wanted to be the fairest in the land.	Evil Queen	Snowdrop (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs)	The Grimm Brothers

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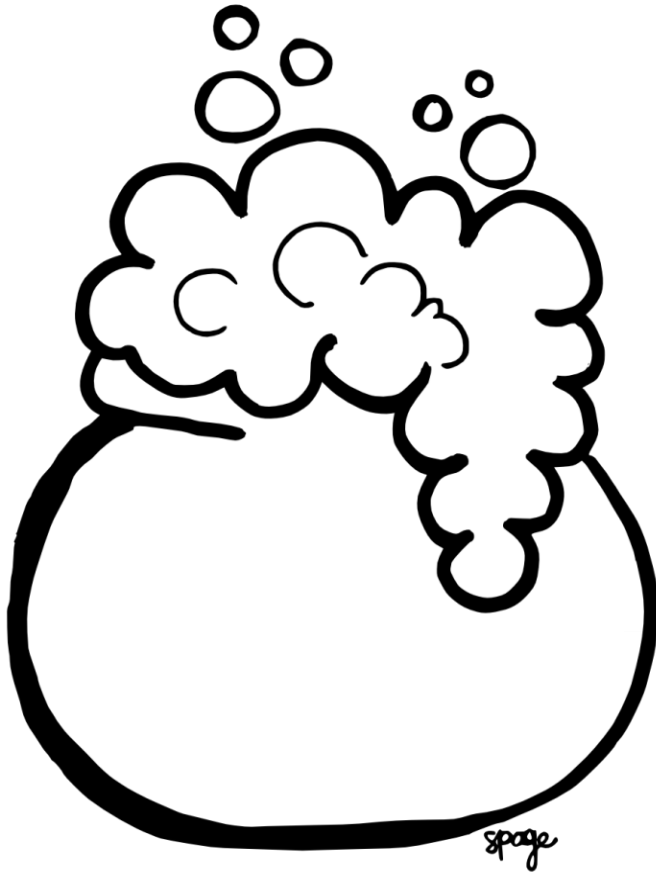
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Simple Recipe

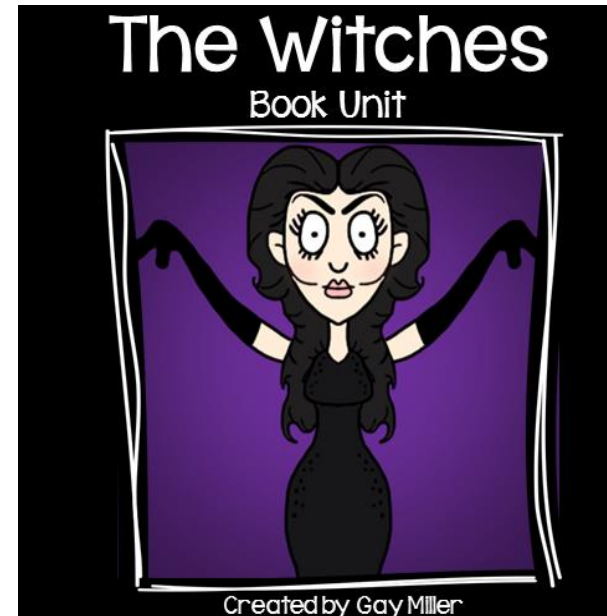
4 quarts of lemon-lime soda
2 quarts lime sherbet

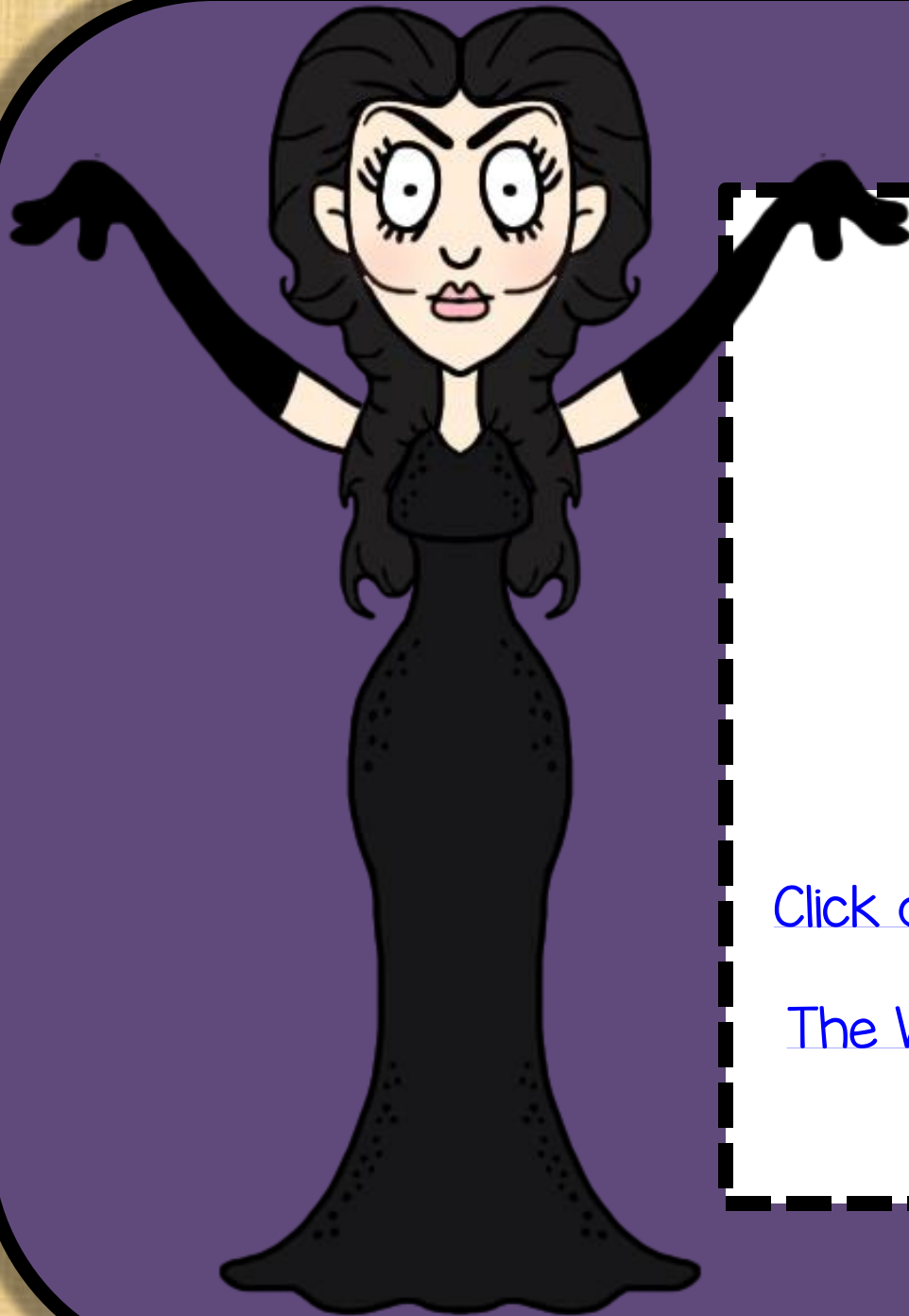
You can add the following ingredients

1 small can frozen lemonade
1 small bag of frozen strawberries
1 qt. Hawaiian punch (any flavor)



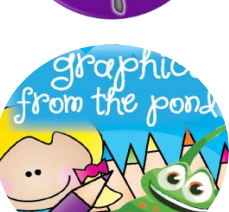
[The Witches Book Unit](#) contains printables, graphic organizers for an interactive notebook, and game activities covering vocabulary, comprehension, constructed response writing, plus skill practice to use with the book *The Witches* by Roald Dahl.



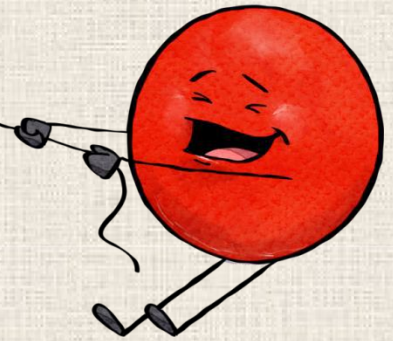


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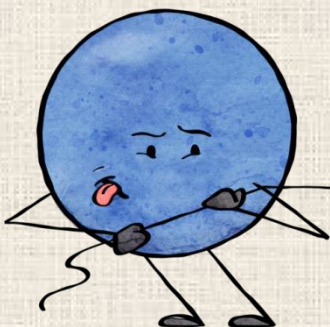
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