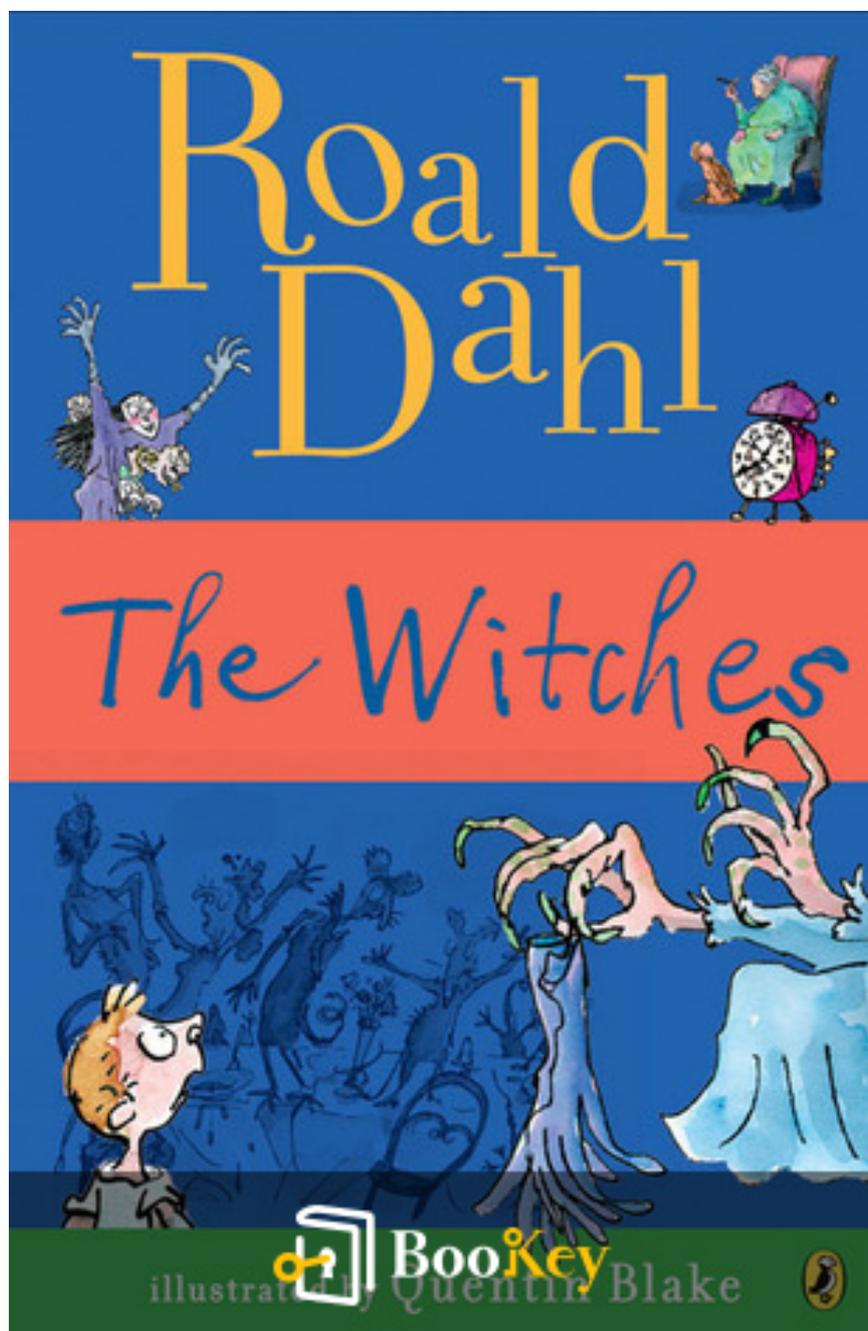


The Witches PDF (Limited Copy)

Roald Dahl



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The Witches Summary

Unmasking the hidden dangers of witches among us.

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About the book

In Roald Dahl's enchanting and slightly sinister tale, "The Witches," readers are drawn into a world where the ordinary and the extraordinary collide, inviting us to explore the dark underbelly of childhood innocence. This captivating story follows a young boy who stumbles upon a secret society of witches led by the terrifying Grand High Witch, who despises children and plots to rid the world of them forever. With a clever blend of magic, mischief, and a dose of bravery, Dahl invites us to join the protagonist on a thrilling quest filled with unexpected twists and whimsical humor, challenging the notion of who we can trust and how our greatest fears can be confronted. Prepare to be spellbound as you unravel the mysteries and dangers that lurk behind every corner in this whimsical yet eerie adventure!

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About the author

Roald Dahl, a beloved British author, was born on September 13, 1916, in Llandaff, Wales. Renowned for his imaginative storytelling and darkly whimsical narratives, Dahl crafted a unique blend of fantasy and realism that has captivated readers of all ages. His background as a World War II fighter pilot and his experiences growing up in a strict boarding school provided significant inspiration for his writing, which often features rebellious children and villainous adults. Over his prolific career, he penned numerous classic children's books, including "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Matilda," and, of course, "The Witches," showcasing his flair for combining humor with moral lessons. Dahl's distinctive style, characterized by clever wordplay and unexpected twists, continues to enchant generations, securing his legacy as one of the most influential children's authors of the 20th century.

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Summary Content List

Chapter 1: A Note about Witches

Chapter 2: My Grandmother

Chapter 3: How to Recognise a Witch

Chapter 4: The Grand High Witch

Chapter 5: Summer Holidays

Chapter 6: The Meeting

Chapter 7: Frizzled Like a Fritter

Chapter 8: Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker

Chapter 9: The Recipe

Chapter 10: Bruno Jenkins Disappears

Chapter 11: The Ancient Ones

Chapter 12: Metamorphosis

Chapter 13: Bruno

Chapter 14: Hello Grandmamma

Chapter 15: The Mouse-Burglar

Chapter 16: Mr and Mrs Jenkins Meet Bruno

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Chapter 17: The Plan

Chapter 18: In the Kitchen

Chapter 19: Mr Jenkins and His Son

Chapter 20: The Triumph

Chapter 21: The Heart of a Mouse

Chapter 22: It's Off to Work We Go!

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Chapter 1 Summary: A Note about Witches

In the opening chapter of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the narrator dives into a chilling exploration of the true nature of witches, shattering the fairy-tale image we often associate with them. Unlike the whimsical figures clad in black hats and cloaks, REAL WITCHES blend seamlessly into everyday life, appearing as ordinary women in regular clothes. They're skilled at concealment, which makes them all the more frightening. The narrator emphasizes their singular, obsessive hatred for children, revealing that a witch's daily thoughts are consumed by her desire to eliminate them—rather gruesomely, one child per week.

Dahl elaborates on the sinister methods witches employ, explaining that they don't resort to physical violence like hitting or stabbing; instead, they rely on their magical powers to make children disappear without leaving a trace. These abilities are potent and chilling, allowing them to manipulate their surroundings in terrifying ways. The narrative underscores that while there are not many witches in the world, their presence is still enough to instill fear, especially in children.

The distinctive nature of witches is also highlighted: they are exclusively female, unlike other mythical creatures that might include male variants. The narrator carefully distinguishes between the charming facade of ordinary women and the hidden menace of witches, suggesting that even those we

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trust, like a beloved teacher or a friendly stranger, could be witches in disguise.

The chapter closes on a note of ominous uncertainty—while definitive signs of a witch exist, there's no foolproof method to identify them, making every woman a potential threat. The unsettling yet engaging tone serves to captivate the audience, mixing humor with horror, while setting the stage for the spooky adventures that are sure to follow.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The true nature of evil can be concealed beneath a friendly exterior.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine walking through life, completely unaware that danger exists all around you, often hidden behind familiar faces. The lesson from this chapter serves as a reminder to stay vigilant and discerning in our relationships, realizing that not everyone who presents themselves as friendly or caring has our best interests at heart. This awareness can inspire you to approach interactions with an open mind, yet a cautious heart, encouraging you to look beyond the surface and trust your instincts, ultimately protecting yourself and allowing genuine connections to flourish.

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Chapter 2 Summary: My Grandmother

In Chapter 2 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, we are introduced to the narrator's beloved grandmother, a wise old Norwegian woman who knows a great deal about witches. The narrator explains that he had two encounters with witches before turning eight, and thanks to his grandmother's protective nature, he survived to tell the tale. The story begins with the tragedy of the narrator losing his parents in a car accident while visiting Norway, leaving him devastated but ultimately in the loving care of his grandmother. They bond deeply during this time, and to distract themselves from their grief, the grandmother begins to tell stories about witches.

His grandmother is a captivating storyteller, with a wealth of experiences and knowledge. She emphasizes that her tales of witches are not mere folklore but true accounts. She warns the narrator that witches look like ordinary women and can be anywhere. This notion triggers a mix of fear and fascination in the young boy, who struggles to understand how to identify such malevolent beings. His grandmother insists that knowing how to spot a witch is crucial for surviving in the world.

As she recounts the stories of missing children taken by witches, the grandmother's seriousness underscores the chilling nature of her narrative. She shares five eerie tales of children disappearing under mysterious circumstances, each more unsettling than the last. The stories include a girl

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who vanishes with a tall lady, another who becomes part of an oil painting, a girl who turns into a chicken, and a boy who becomes a statue made of stone. The final tale is of a boy who transforms into a porpoise during a family outing, which raises doubts in the boy's mind but is told with such conviction that he can't help but be captivated.

Through this chapter, themes of love, loss, and the struggle between childhood innocence and the unsettling reality of danger are explored. The bond between the narrator and his grandmother illustrates the healing power of family and storytelling in the face of tragedy. The chapter sets up a sense of impending adventure as it introduces the concept of witches lurking in the world, highlighting the importance of vigilance and wisdom in recognizing true threats disguised in ordinary appearances. The grandmother's nurturing yet cautionary approach to these stories serves as a foundation for the narrator's understanding of the world and foreshadows the challenges he will face.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of wisdom and vigilance in recognizing threats

Critical Interpretation: As you traverse through the stages of life, consider the profound wisdom imparted by the grandmother about spotting witches—those seemingly benign entities that can manifest as threats in your daily existence. This key insight teaches you to remain vigilant and discerning, encouraging you to look beyond the surface and ask critical questions. Just like the narrator, when faced with the complexities and potential dangers of the world, you are inspired to cultivate an awareness that helps you identify real risks and protect yourself and others. Embracing this lesson can enrich your journey, enabling you to navigate through challenges with insight and courage.

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Chapter 3: How to Recognise a Witch

In Chapter 3 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the narrator's grandmother takes center stage as she shares her knowledge on how to recognize a witch. This chapter is both engaging and terrifying, filled with quirky details and eerie warnings that reveal the nature of witches through the grandmother's anecdotes.

The grandmother begins by explaining that a real witch always wears gloves, even in warm weather, to conceal her cat-like claws instead of nails. This immediately sets a foreboding tone, emphasizing the witch's need for disguise. Despite the uniqueness of a witch's characteristics, the grandmother acknowledges that these traits alone aren't always reliable for spotting a witch. She continues with her list, revealing that real witches are completely bald and cover this fact with high-quality wigs, which can cause severe itchiness on their scalps—leading to the amusing term “wig-rash.”

Another peculiar quality is a witch's nose; they possess larger nose-holes, which they use to sniff out children—even from afar. The grandmother

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Chapter 4 Summary: The Grand High Witch

In Chapter 4 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the story unfolds as the narrator learns about the gravity of his situation following his father's death. A man arrives to read his father's will, and the narrator is filled with panic at the thought of being sent away from his beloved grandmother. She reassures him that she will take care of him, but they must move back to England, as stipulated in the will.

As preparations begin for their move, his grandmother warns him about witches, especially the English ones, who are known to be incredibly dangerous. She shares chilling stories of how these witches have ways to turn children into creatures that can easily be harmed or killed by adults, like slugs or pheasants. The narrator listens with a mix of fascination and dread as she explains that all countries have witches, but they are different in each place, and there is a fearsome leader known as the Grand High Witch. She is believed to be ruthless and rich, using her wealth to control other witches.

After arriving in England, life seems to settle into a routine with school starting again. The narrator and his friend Timmy begin building a treehouse together, which becomes a symbol of their innocent childhood adventure. However, while working alone one day, he encounters a mysterious woman in their garden, wearing gloves and a peculiar smile. She offers him a green snake, which terrifies him, triggering his instinctual fear of witches. He

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climbs the tree in panic and stays there until his grandmother calls him down.

When he shares his terrifying experience, his grandmother becomes anxious, realizing that a witch is nearby. She vows to protect him, leading to a tense yet protective atmosphere between them. This chapter deepens the theme of fear versus courage, exploring the threat of witches through the narrator's innocent perspective, while establishing the strong bond and sense of safety he feels with his grandmother. It deftly combines elements of childhood imagination with looming danger, setting the stage for the adventures to come.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of courage in the face of fear

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing on the edge of the unknown, feeling fear prickling at the back of your mind, just like the narrator did when he encountered the witch. Yet, just as he found solace in his grandmother's unwavering support, so too can you discover strength within yourself to confront the things that frighten you. Embrace your fears, knowing that courage isn't the absence of fear but the decision to face it head-on. Just as the narrator climbs down from the tree, you too can choose to step forward into the world, bolstered by the love and guidance of those who care for you, turning potential threats into opportunities for growth.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Summer Holidays

In Chapter 5 of "The Witches," the story picks up as summer holidays approach, filled with anticipation for a trip to Norway that the narrator and his grandmother have planned. They excitedly reminisce about her childhood adventures exploring the Norwegian coastline, fishing, and enjoying the tastiest fresh seafood. However, just weeks before their departure, tragedy strikes when the grandmother falls seriously ill with pneumonia. The narrator, concerned and anxious, watches as caregivers and medical equipment fill their home, illustrating the tension and fear surrounding her health.

After a difficult period, the grandmother begins to recover, signaling a turning point in the narrative. The doctor advises against their long journey to Norway, suggesting instead a stay in a hotel at Bournemouth for the benefits of sea air. Though initially resistant, especially after being told they can't travel, the narrator ultimately agrees, wanting his grandmother to get better. They arrive at the Hotel Magnificent, which the narrator finds dull compared to their anticipated adventure.

Amidst the hotel's constraints, the narrator has brought two pets—white mice named William and Mary—which sparks a series of lively escapades. He teaches them tricks, showcasing his enthusiasm and imagination. However, this leads to a conflict with Mr. Stringer, the hotel manager, when



one of the mice escapes and is discovered by the staff. The grandmother fiercely defends her grandson, claiming that the hotel harbors rats, illustrating her spirited personality and protective nature.

Eventually, a compromise allows the mice to stay under strict conditions, leading the boy to seek a hidden space to train them. His clandestine mouse training in the ballroom becomes a delightful focus, showcasing both his creativity and dreams of having a circus. However, just as he dives into this adventure, the arrival of a group of ladies for a meeting interrupts the tranquility, bringing chaos to his secret. This mix of humor, tension, and the strong bond between the grandmother and grandson serves as core themes in this chapter, emphasizing resilience in adversity and the joys of childhood imagination.

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Chapter 6: The Meeting

In Chapter 6 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the young narrator finds himself unexpectedly alone in a room filled with a large group of seemingly charming ladies who are actually witches. His initial curiosity turns to alarm as he observes their odd behavior—most notably, the peculiar way they all scratch the back of their necks. Their chatter and friendly appearances contrast sharply with his growing dread, as he realizes that something is amiss.

As he continues to observe, he makes a shocking discovery: one lady lifts her entire wig off her head while still scratching her scalp, revealing that all the women are wearing wigs and gloves. This revelation sends a chill through him, and he begins to fear for his safety. The atmosphere shifts from one of innocent curiosity to intense suspense as he weighs his escape options but finds no way out. His heart races, and he momentarily faints under the pressure of the situation, only to regain consciousness behind the safety of the screen.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Frizzled Like a Fritter

In Chapter 7 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, an alarming atmosphere descends as a mysterious woman appears on stage. Her initial beauty captivates the audience, but soon the chilling truth is revealed—she is The Grand High Witch, the most powerful witch of all. As she removes her beautiful mask to unveil a grotesque, decaying face, the horrified onlookers, who are all witches themselves, display a mix of fascination and fear. The narrator, hidden behind a screen, is struck by the monstrous sight and the realization that he is surrounded by child-hating witches.

The Grand High Witch, whose voice is harsh and commanding, orders the witches to remove their gloves, shoes, and wigs, revealing the terrifying truth beneath their fashionable exteriors: they have claw-like fingers, toeless feet, and bald, scabby heads. These grotesque transformations highlight the theme of hidden identities and the deceptive appearances of the witches. The tension escalates as The Grand High Witch rages against the presence of children in the world, her disdain palpable. She demands that every child in the country be eliminated within a year, which sends shockwaves through her audience, as some witches visibly tremble at the thought of this monstrous task.

When one witch voices her concern about the enormity of the task, she is swiftly condemned by The Grand High Witch, who invokes a terrifying

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chant proclaiming the fate of any witch who dares to defy her. As sparks fly from her eyes, the defiant witch is incinerated before the crowd, her chair left empty amidst a scent of burnt flesh. The chilling effectiveness of The Grand High Witch's wrath reinforces her authority and paints a dark picture of fear, loyalty, and the consequences of dissent.

This chapter captivates the reader with its blend of horror and dark humor, emphasizing the sinister nature of the witches and the overarching theme of innocence threatened by evil forces. Meanwhile, the narrator's desperate desire to escape creates a gripping sense of urgency, heightening the story's tension and foreshadowing the challenges to come.

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Chapter 8 Summary: Formula 86 Delayed Action

Mouse-Maker

In Chapter 8 of Roald Dahl's "The Witches," we delve into the sinister plans of The Grand High Witch, who is on a mission to eliminate children from the world. The chapter opens with her expressing her revulsion towards children, calling them "foul and filthy" while the witches in the audience enthusiastically agree with her, growing more excited by her outrage. The Grand High Witch then unveils a grand scheme to rid England of every child, prompting wild cheers from the other witches.

She instructs her followers to resign from their jobs and buy sweet shops, implying these shops will serve as a trap for children. The witches eagerly anticipate this endeavor, envisioning their shops filled with delicious sweets. However, one witch becomes overly enthusiastic and suggests poisoning the sweets, which provokes the wrath of The Grand High Witch. She scorns her for not understanding that such an approach would lead to immediate capture, asserting that they must rely on magic instead.

The Grand High Witch then reveals her ingenious yet horrifying formula: "Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker." She explains how it works incrementally, causing children to shrink and transform into mice after consuming the tainted sweets. The notion of creating chaos in schools delights the audience, who picture classrooms teeming with mice, leaving

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teachers in utter panic. As she describes the ensuing chaos, she revels in the imagery of mice overwhelming the schools and teachers setting traps, chanting with glee alongside her followers.

The chapter showcases themes of malevolence and the battle between good and evil, illustrating how the witches view children as their sworn enemies. The Grand High Witch's plan reflects her cunning and manipulation, drawing her fellow witches into a shared fervor of wickedness. The vivid descriptions and infectious excitement of the witches contribute to a sense of foreboding, as one cannot help but sense the impending doom for the unsuspecting children. Overall, this chapter captures the blend of horror and humor that defines Dahl's storytelling style, engaging readers with its dark fantasy elements while simultaneously highlighting the absurdity of the witches' plot.

Key Element	Description
Chapter Overview	Chapter 8 reveals The Grand High Witch's plan to rid the world of children, setting the stage for chaos.
Grand High Witch's Attitude	Expresses revulsion towards children, referring to them as "foul and filthy," which excites the witches.
Witches' Reaction	The witches cheer enthusiastically, sharing in the excitement over the plan to eliminate children.
Plan Unveiled	The Grand High Witch instructs her followers to take up jobs in sweet shops as a trap for children.



Key Element	Description
Idea of Poisoning	One witch's suggestion to poison sweets is immediately scorned by The Grand High Witch.
Magic Formula	The Grand High Witch introduces "Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker," which turns children into mice.
Chaos Description	The witches envision pandemonium in schools, delighting in the imagery of mice overwhelming classrooms.
Themes	The chapter explores malevolence, the battle between good and evil, and the witches' perception of children.
Dahl's Style	Combines horror and humor, engaging readers with dark fantasy elements and absurdity in the witches' plot.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Imagination and Creativity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 8 of 'The Witches,' the Grand High Witch showcases an unsettling yet imaginative plan to rid the world of children, reflecting the power of creativity in both positive and negative contexts. As you immerse yourself in this dark fantasy, consider how imagination shapes the world around you. Instead of plotting malevolently, channel your creative energy towards constructing a vision for good—a world where every idea you generate serves to uplift and inspire others. Just as the witches conspire in their sinister schemes, you too possess the ability to craft grand narratives; however, choosing to harness that power for kindness and innovation can transform lives, spark joy, and counteract the negativity in the world. Let this chapter inspire you to focus on the light that creativity can bring, rather than letting it succumb to darker impulses.

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Chapter 9: The Recipe

In Chapter 9 of Roald Dahl's "The Witches," the narrator remains hidden behind a screen, filled with terror as he listens to the sinister plans of the witches. He's in constant fear of being discovered and believes that his unwashed state is his only protection. The witches are enthralled by The Grand High Witch's presentation and her terrifying scheme to eliminate all the children in England using a concoction called Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker.

The chapter reaches a turning point when The Grand High Witch reveals that she has transformed two children into white mice, which are actually the narrator's pets, William and Mary. The witches become excited, shouting about catching the child behind the screen, unaware that he is right there among them. The Grand High Witch tries to keep her audience calm but also announces her intent to find the child and turn him into a fish dish.

As she begins to unveil her recipe for the mouse-making formula, the witches eagerly take notes. The Grand High Witch explains that to shrink a

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Chapter 10 Summary: Bruno Jenkins Disappears

In this thrilling chapter of "The Witches," the Grand High Witch prepares to showcase her magic potion's terrifying effects. She announces to her fellow witches that instead of the previously set time for her demonstration, she will reveal its potency in just a few moments. The potion is designed to transform a naughty little boy into a mouse, and she has chosen Bruno Jenkins, a gluttonous child known for his obnoxious behavior, as her target.

As the chapter unfolds, Bruno arrives at the ballroom, excited and oblivious to the sinister atmosphere surrounding him. The Grand High Witch, in her deceptive mask that makes her appear youthful and charming, lures Bruno onto the stage with promises of chocolate bars. Although he initially seems unwary, his suspicion grows as the countdown to his transformation begins.

The tension rises as the countdown reaches its climax. With each passing second, the witches eagerly anticipate the outcome. When the alarm rings, Bruno's transformation occurs almost instantaneously. He shrinks before the audience's eyes, turning into a small brown mouse. The witches erupt in applause, celebrating the successful demonstration.

However, amid the chaos, Bruno, now a mouse, manages to escape the immediate peril of being captured, much to the Grand High Witch's frustration. Although he is an unpleasant character, the narrator's sympathy

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for him emerges as he narrowly avoids a grim fate. The chapter highlights themes of greed, transformation, and the dangers of underestimating others, as well as the whimsical yet sinister nature of Dahl's storytelling. The excitement is palpable, leaving readers eager to see what will happen next in this darkly enchanting tale.

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Chapter 11 Summary: The Ancient Ones

In Chapter 11 of "The Witches," we find ourselves at a conspiring gathering led by the Grand High Witch, who commands respect and fear from her audience of lesser witches. She begins by addressing a group of older witches, deeming them too frail for their usual wicked activities, like climbing trees for grunts or chasing mythical creatures. Yet, demonstrating her cunning and cruelty, she offers them a chance to still partake in their malevolent deeds by distributing a special potion she's created: Delayed Action Mouse-Maker. This potion is potent enough to transform five hundred children into mice, showcasing the witches' insatiable appetite for causing chaos among innocent children.

The witches are giddy with excitement at the prospect, eagerly promising to make good use of the potion. They seem oblivious to the horrific implications of their plans, echoing their gratitude to the Grand High Witch, whom they regard with almost worshipful affection. She then outlines the schedule for the rest of their stay at the hotel, laden with moments designed for them to hunt for children disguised as mundane gatherings.

However, this sinister gathering takes a turn when one witch, Mildred, catches a whiff of something unusual—dog droppings. The scent suddenly piques the interest of the others, and soon, they are all consumed by the smell, their focus shifting from their leader to the hunt for what they believe



is a child lurking nearby. Panic spreads among the witches as they shout about the smell, with the Grand High Witch demanding that they track it down to eliminate any potential witnesses to their dark secrets.

As the tension rises, the chapter captures a moment of suspense, leaving readers on edge as the witches prepare to root out what they believe is a child—even as we know it's the protagonist who is in grave danger. This chapter highlights key themes of the story, such as the maliciousness of the witches, the innocence of children, and the perpetual struggle between good and evil. The absurdity of the situation underscores Dahl's keen sense of humor, while also building a palpable tension that pulls the reader deeper into this fantastical yet frightening world.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The insidious nature of evil disguising itself in society

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 11, you witness how the Grand High Witch and her followers gather under the guise of normalcy, their true intentions masked by a facade of camaraderie. This starkly illustrates that not all who seem friendly harbor good intentions; in fact, the most dangerous individuals often disguise their maleficence in charming appearances. This realization can inspire you to foster a discerning perspective in your interactions, encouraging you to seek deeper truths beyond superficial behaviors. By remaining vigilant against deceit cloaked in familiarity, you can protect your innocence and wellbeing, ensuring that you stand firmly against negativity and malice in all forms.

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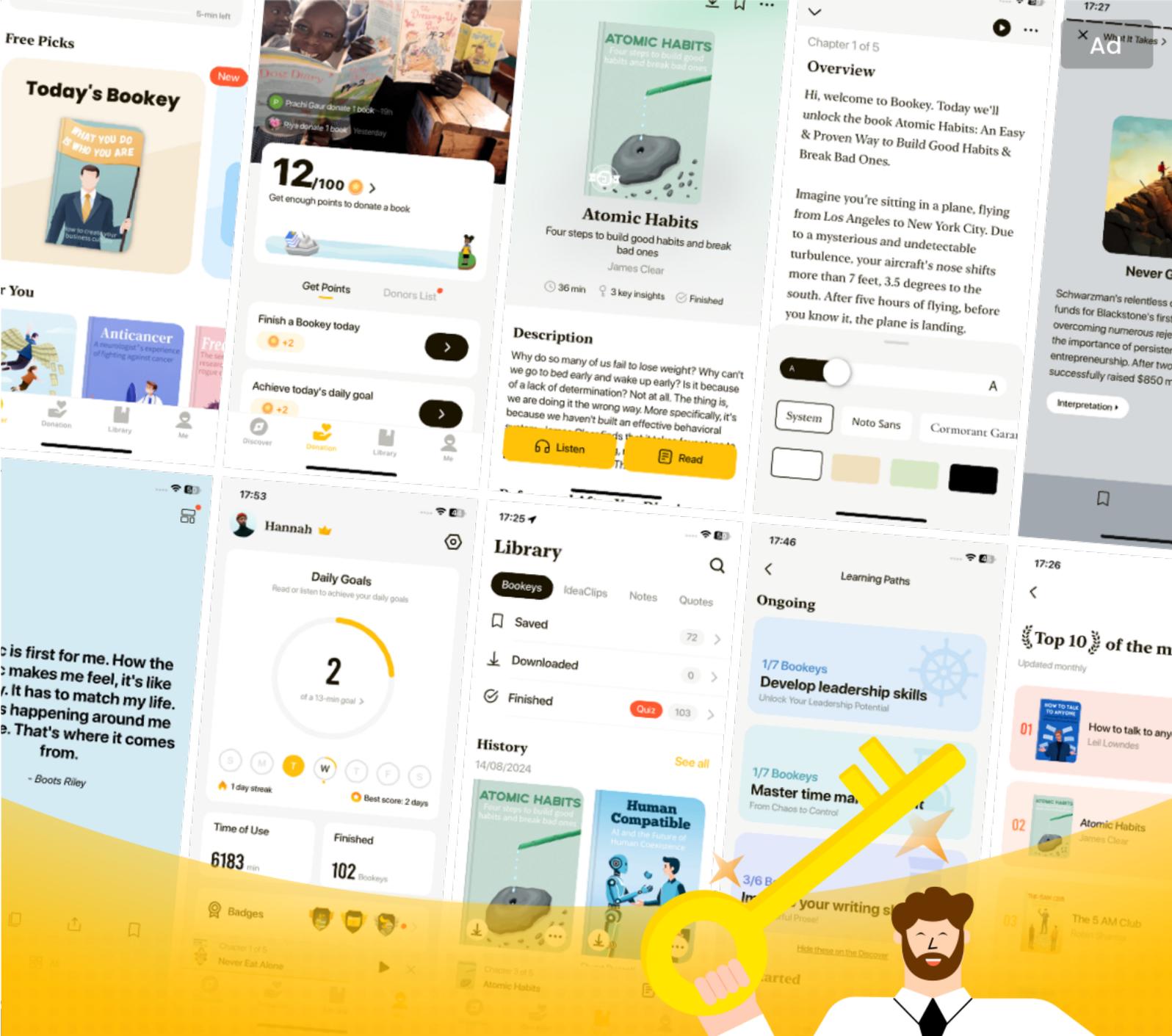
Chapter 12: Metamorphosis

In Chapter 12 of "The Witches," the story takes a dark turn as the young protagonist finds himself in a terrifying predicament. Trapped in a ballroom full of witches, he initially feels there's no escape, especially when the malevolent Grand High Witch senses his presence. With sheer panic coursing through him, he manages to evade their grasp for a moment, but soon the witches corner him. His screams for help go unanswered as they capture him, and he is pulled toward the stage where the Grand High Witch awaits, grinning ominously.

In a horrifying scene, she forces him to swallow a potion from a small blue bottle, which causes an excruciating transformation. He experiences pain akin to boiling water flowing down his throat and then a gruesome shrinking sensation, as though his body is being crushed. As the changes take hold, he feels his skin tighten and then prick with a new sensation as mouse fur starts to grow. In a moment of despair and confusion, he realizes that he is no longer a boy; he has transformed into a mouse.

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Chapter 13 Summary: Bruno

In Chapter 13 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the story continues with the protagonist, now a mouse, exploring the aftermath of the witches' gathering in the grand Ballroom. After the witches leave, he feels a strange sense of freedom in his new form, realizing that being a mouse might not be all that bad. He reflects on the troubles of being a little boy, like school and the dangers of being outside, contrasting them with the simpler, albeit perilous, life of a mouse.

As he wanders the floor, he finds his friend Bruno, who is also now a mouse but is initially in denial about his transformation. Their conversation is filled with humor and shock as Bruno insists he isn't a mouse, despite his furry paws and newfound rodent form. When the protagonist explains that a witch transformed them, Bruno panics and worries about how his parents will react to his new situation—especially since his mother fears mice.

The protagonist encourages Bruno to see the positives of being a mouse while trying to keep spirits high. He suggests they should seek help from his grandmother, who is knowledgeable about witches. The chapter builds on themes of transformation and identity, showing how the characters cope with their unexpected situations. It also emphasizes friendship and the bonds that hold them together in the face of adversity, as the two mice prepare to escape safely from the dangerous world of witches. The chapter concludes

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with them plotting their next move as they cautiously prepare to make their way through the corridor, highlighting the urgency and tension of their predicament.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Hello Grandmamma

In Chapter 14 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the young protagonist and his friend Bruno quickly escape from a frightening event in the hotel ballroom. They manage to dodge the guests by taking the stairs to avoid being seen, but their luck nearly runs out when a chambermaid, who previously reported the boy for having white mice, approaches. Desperate, they hide in a pair of her shoes. When she picks up one of the shoes, the boy instinctively bites her finger, causing her to scream and flee, which allows the boys to dart into the safety of the grandmother's room.

Inside, the boy's grandmother is horrified to see her grandson transformed into a mouse. Despite her shock and tears, the boy surprisingly feels calm and reassured, knowing his grandmother will protect him. He explains that another boy, Bruno Jenkins, has also been turned into a mouse and recounts how he overheard a meeting of witches, including the Grand High Witch, who plans to turn all the children in England into mice with a special potion.

The boy describes the horrifying appearance of the witches, captivating his grandmother's attention as she listens intently. As he reveals details about the witches' meeting, the excitement and determination in his grandmother grows, leading to a plan to stop the witches. The grandmother is particularly intrigued by the mention of the Delayed Action Mouse-Maker and its potential to turn the witches into mice themselves.

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Together, they devise a risky plan: the boy will sneak into the Grand High Witch's room, which he realizes is directly below his own, to retrieve a bottle of the potion. His grandmother expresses concern but ultimately encourages the boy's initiative, thrilled by the prospect of ridding the world of witches in one fell swoop.

With urgency, they head out onto the balcony to scout the room below, where they confirm it is indeed the Grand High Witch's. The grandmother then has the clever idea of using her knitting wool to lower the boy down to the witch's balcony, emphasizing the excitement and danger of their mission. This chapter is packed with a blend of suspense, adventure, and the deep bond between the boy and his grandmother, highlighting themes of courage, the fight against evil, and the power of love and family.

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Chapter 15: The Mouse-Burglar

In Chapter 15 of "The Witches," we dive into a heart-pounding moment where the young protagonist, now transformed into a mouse, prepares for a daring mission. His loving grandmother boosts his courage as she carefully lowers him in a sock from their balcony. Once on the ground, he scurries into The Grand High Witch's bedroom, a place filled with an unsettling musty odor that reminds him of a gross public lavatory. The room appears ordinary at first glance, but the boy's instincts tell him something sinister lurks within.

As he explores, he spots a frog—a clear sign that danger is near, as these creatures are former children turned into witches' pets. Urged on by his grandmother's distant voice, he begins to search frantically. Realizing the most secretive place to hide important items would be under the mattress, he manages to tear open the cloth and discovers several small bottles hidden inside. One in particular catch his eye: a bottle labeled "Formula 86, Delayed Action Mouse-Maker," promising five hundred doses of transformation. Triumph fills him as he holds it, proud of his find.

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Chapter 16 Summary: Mr and Mrs Jenkins Meet Bruno

In Chapter 16 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the story becomes increasingly frantic and humorous as the protagonist's grandmother decides to confront Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins about their son Bruno, who has been transformed into a mouse by witches. After confirming the time for the witches' supper, Grandma prepares to return Bruno to his parents, having noticed that he has gorged on bananas and become quite fat. She puts both Bruno and the boy into her handbag for a clandestine mission to find Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, highlighting her determination and quirky resourcefulness.

As they enter the Lounge, Grandma spots the Jenkinses sitting comfortably. With her grandmotherly candor, she tries to get their attention, but Mr. Jenkins is dismissive and condescending. He doesn't take her warnings seriously, and Mrs. Jenkins quickly joins him in brushing off Grandma's concerns. Tensions rise as she insists on discussing Bruno in private, while Mr. Jenkins stubbornly refuses to move. This leads to a comical exchange where he implies that Bruno's misbehavior is typical and unimportant, revealing the parents' neglect of their son's situation.

Finally, unable to convince them through words, Grandma dramatically reveals Bruno, now a mouse, from her handbag. However, instead of recognizing their son, Mrs. Jenkins shrieks in horror at the sight of a mouse, prompting chaos in the Lounge as Mr. Jenkins angrily defends his wife's

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fears and attempts to swat Bruno away. The scene is filled with absurdity as Grandma valiantly attempts to explain the situation while being attacked by the couple's panicked reactions.

Ultimately, Grandma's efforts to reunite Bruno with his parents are met with ridicule and rejection, and in frustration, she decides to take Bruno away, highlighting a theme of the struggle against ignorance and disbelief. The chapter captures the blend of humor, tension, and the peculiar world of witches and magic, showcasing Dahl's talent for engaging storytelling.

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Chapter 17 Summary: The Plan

In Chapter 17 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the story picks up as the narrator and Bruno, both transformed into mice, are planning a daring mission with the help of the narrator's grandmother. After settling back into their bedroom, the grandmother expresses her frustration over Bruno's silence during their past encounter, leading to a bit of banter about their current mouse state. The focus quickly shifts to strategy, as they realize that the witches will be heading to dinner soon, and they must deliver a dose of Mouse-Maker to each of them to thwart their evil plans.

The grandmother is impressed by the narrator's clever idea to sneak into the kitchen, knowing that as a mouse, he can access areas humans cannot. They discuss the risks involved; the narrator must listen carefully to determine which food is intended for the witches, as making a mistake could result in disastrous consequences. Together, they work through the challenges, with the narrator feeling confident about navigating the kitchen undetected. His ability to unscrew the Mouse-Maker bottle enhances his cleverness, and his grandmother praises him for it.

With a plan taking shape, the grandmother outlines the logistics of their adventure. She will bring the narrator and Bruno in her handbag to the dining room, which ramps up the excitement and anticipation. As they iron out the details, Bruno insists on joining them for supper, promising to stay



quiet in the bag while the grandmother also plans to sneak him some food. The energy in the room is filled with nervous excitement as the grandmother reassures both mice of their bravery and the importance of the task ahead. The chapter captures themes of ingenuity, teamwork, and the excitement of adventure, setting the stage for a high-stakes mission against the wretched witches.

Chapter	Summary
17	In Chapter 17, the narrator and Bruno, now mice, devise a plan with their grandmother to thwart the witches' evil plans. They aim to deliver Mouse-Maker to the witches during dinner, with the grandmother impressed by the narrator's clever idea to sneak into the kitchen. Risks are discussed, as the narrator must identify the correct food while remaining undetected. The plan involves the grandmother carrying the mice in her handbag to the dining room, and despite Bruno's initial silence, he insists on joining the mission for food. The chapter highlights themes of ingenuity, teamwork, and the excitement of their adventure against the witches.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Ingenuity and Resourcefulness

Critical Interpretation: This chapter teaches you that even in the most challenging situations, your ability to think creatively and adapt can lead to extraordinary solutions. Just like the narrator uses his newfound mouse abilities to navigate the kitchen undetected, you can approach your own life's obstacles with a resourceful mindset. Embrace your unique strengths, think outside the box, and you'll find ways to overcome barriers that seem insurmountable, proving that cleverness and teamwork can lead to victory against even the toughest adversities.

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Chapter 18: In the Kitchen

In this thrilling chapter of "The Witches," the main character and his grandmother are on a daring mission to thwart the plans of the evil witches. The chapter starts with the grandmother's palpable excitement and nervousness as she prepares for their secret operation. It's half-past seven and the boys are hidden in her handbag, where she reveals an unexpected surprise—his newly sprouted tail, which she suggests could be useful during their adventure in the kitchen.

As they navigate through the grand Dining-Room, filled with well-dressed guests and delectable meals, the atmosphere thickens with tension. The protagonist, determined and clever, makes a quick escape from under the table and deftly dashes toward the kitchen door while avoiding the attention of the bustling guests.

Inside the kitchen, chaos reigns; the sounds of clanging, shouting, and sizzling create a vivid backdrop. He takes advantage of his mouse agility, even swinging from a garbage-bin handle to gain height. The excitement

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Chapter 19 Summary: Mr Jenkins and His Son

In Chapter 19 of "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the tension escalates dramatically as Mr. Jenkins confronts the narrator's grandmother with a furious demeanor. He is clearly upset about his son Bruno's disappearance, suspecting that the grandmother is involved in some mischief along with the boy. As Mr. Jenkins demands to know where Bruno is, the grandmother maintains a cool composure, even insisting that Bruno has essentially turned into a mouse—a claim that seems outrageous to Mr. Jenkins.

As the confrontation unfolds, Bruno unexpectedly pokes his head out of the grandmother's handbag and confirms his transformation into a mouse, much to his father's shock. Mr. Jenkins reacts with disbelief, and the absurdity of the situation creates a mix of humor and chaos in the dining room, with nearby diners watching in intrigue. Bruno expresses his newfound freedom from school and homework, relishing his life as a mouse and craving treats like raisins and honey.

The grandmother calmly explains that it was indeed witches who caused Bruno's transformation, adding another layer of tension as Mr. Jenkins grapples with the bizarre reality that his son is now a mouse. His concern shifts from disbelief to panic as he realizes the implications: Bruno's mother won't tolerate a mouse in the house, especially since they have a cat named Topsy. The grandmother pragmatically advises Mr. Jenkins to prioritize his



son over the cat, while Bruno enthusiastically agrees.

The chapter culminates in a moment of recklessness as Mr. Jenkins, fueled by anger, decides to confront the Grand High Witch, unaware of her magical powers. The anticipation builds as he strides across the dining room, setting the stage for potential disaster. Since most guests are now watching with curiosity, the atmosphere is charged with suspense as the scene teeters between humor and imminent peril. The key themes in this chapter include the absurdity of the situation, the protective nature of family, and the dangers of miscalculated bravado in the face of true magic.

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Chapter 20 Summary: The Triumph

In Chapter 20 of "The Witches," titled "The Triumph," a dramatic and chaotic scene unfolds at the banquet where the Grand High Witch's plan is about to unravel. Just as Mr. Jenkins approaches the Grand High Witch's table, a tremendous scream pierces through the commotion, sending her soaring up onto the table, flailing her arms. In a moment of pandemonium, all the witches begin to scream and jump, reacting as if something dreadful is happening to them.

As the chaos escalates, my grandmother tells me to observe closely. Suddenly, the witches start shrinking, transforming into small brown mice, much like I did before. My grandmother explains that the witches were overdosed on the Mouse-Maker potion, causing them to shrink faster. The once-posh dining room erupts into a frenzy, with terrified adults shouting and diving for cover as waiters swing furniture to fend off the hundreds of mice produced from the witches. However, the children delight in the spectacle, cheering and clapping as they view this unexpected turn of events.

My grandmother decides it's time to leave, her mission complete. She swiftly retrieves Bruno and hands him back to his panicked parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, who are scrambling to escape the mice-filled room. Outside, the warm evening air greets us as we finally step into freedom. A taxi driver, initially surprised by seeing me—a little mouse—settles into our journey

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back to the station. My grandmother, unfazed by the bizarre circumstances, brushes off concerns about our luggage, as she's just thrilled to be going home.

As we ride through the bustling streets, my grandmother pets me gently while we bask in the triumph of our adventure. She reflects on the great deeds accomplished, and I, filled with joy and relief, enthusiastically join her in celebrating our success. The chapter ends on a high note, signifying not just victory over the witches but also the deep bond shared between us, ready for our next life adventure back in Norway.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Victory over evil through courage and unity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 20, the triumph of the children and their allies over the deceptive witches illustrates a powerful lesson: when faced with danger, courage and unity can lead to victory against seemingly insurmountable odds. This underscores the importance of standing together with loved ones to confront challenges, reminding us that even in our most difficult moments, we can find strength through connection and bravery. By facing our fears and supporting one another, we too can rise above adversities, transforming chaos into an opportunity for triumph.

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Chapter 21: The Heart of a Mouse

In this cozy chapter of "The Witches," the story's young protagonist finds joy in returning to his grandmother's charming old house in Norway, despite his recent transformation into a mouse. Everything around him appears grand and unfamiliar, filled with carpets and furniture that seem like towering mountains. However, his loving grandmother steps in with a burst of creativity, crafting useful gadgets to help navigate his new life. She sets up tall stepladders for him to reach tables and ingeniously designs a door-opening mechanism, which empowers him to explore freely.

Their bond deepens through shared moments and heartwarming conversations. The grandmother invents a tiny toothbrush and a silver sugar basin for his baths, emphasizing the importance of hygiene, even for a mouse. One evening, as they enjoy the warmth of the fire, they reflect on their lives and the fate of Bruno, another child who had faced danger. This conversation shifts to the existential topic of how long a mouse and a mouse-person might live. The protagonist learns that while ordinary mice live about three years, a mouse-person like him could live up to nine years.

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Chapter 22 Summary: It's Off to Work We Go!

That evening, the narrator and his grandmother enjoyed a simple supper, but it turned into anything but ordinary as they discussed the fate of witches after the defeat of the Grand High Witch. The narrator, full of hope, thought that without their leader, all witches would vanish. His grandmother, however, explained that just like a queen bee, there would always be another Grand High Witch ready to take her place. Despite their victory in England, she revealed that witches still exist worldwide, igniting a sense of urgency in the narrator.

Excitedly, his grandmother shared that she had already contacted the Chief of Police in Bournemouth to get the Grand High Witch's address. To the narrator's surprise, she did this by impersonating a police chief herself! The address she obtained was linked to a castle in Norway that served as a secret headquarters for witches. This revelation sparked a flurry of excitement as they plotted their next steps.

The grandmother laid out a daring plan: they would return to Norway, with the narrator sneaking into the castle as a mouse. He could gather information, learn about the operations, and most importantly, deploy the formula that had previously transformed him into a mouse to defeat the witches once and for all. They would need to be clever about it, as turning the witches into intelligent mice could pose a new set of dangers.



The narrator realized the potential dangers of turning the witches into mice, leading to the birth of a new problem where clever and malicious mouse-witches could be everywhere. After some brainstorm, the answer struck—the solution was cats! By introducing cats into the castle, they could eradicate the mice, and the witches wouldn't stand a chance.

With excitement building, they outlined their ambitious plan: they would track down every witch in the world, spreading the new magical formula to ensure the end of witchcraft once and for all. Embracing the adventure ahead, they felt invigorated by the prospect of taking on this monumental task together. Their bond strengthened by a shared purpose, they were determined to rid the world of witches and embark on an epic journey that promised both fun and excitement.

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