



# ROOM ON THE BROOM

AUTHOR: JULIA DONALDSON

ILLUSTRATOR: AXEL SCHEFFLER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Room on the Broom](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

The witch and her cat fly happily over forests, rivers and mountains on their broomstick until a stormy wind blows away the witch's hat, bow and wand. They are retrieved by a dog, a bird and a frog, and each animal asks for a ride on the broom. One after the next climbs on, until the broom is so heavy that it snaps in two! What will happen next as they tumble into a bog and meet a greedy dragon? ([Wikipedia](#))

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julia Donaldson is an English writer, playwright and performer, and the 2011–2013 Children's Laureate. She is best known for her popular rhyming stories for children, especially those illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which include *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*. She originally wrote songs for children's television but has concentrated on writing books since the words of one of her songs, "A Squash and a Squeeze," were made into a children's book in 1993. Of her 184 published works, 64 are widely available in bookshops. The remaining 120 are intended for school use and include her Songbirds phonic reading scheme, which is part of the Oxford Reading Tree. ([Wikipedia](#))

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Axel Scheffler was born in Durham, England. He studied at the Bath Academy of Art and worked in advertising and publishing after graduating in 1985. He has drawn his distinctive illustrations for authors of children's books from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. In addition to Julia Donaldson, these authors include Jon Blake, Paul Shipton, David Henry Wilson, Uwe Timm, Paul van Loon and Toon Tellegen. Mr. Scheffler lives in Blackheath, London.

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- I wonder what the illustration on the cover tells us about what the book is going to be about.
- Do you think this is a fiction or nonfiction book? Why do you say that?
- What do you think is the setting of this book, where does it take place? What makes you think that?

## ROOM ON THE BROOM

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Chronological order
- Cause and effect
- Rhyming
- Fantasy
- Halloween

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"What do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

## DURING THE STORY

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*Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:*

- (p. 4.) I notice something about the sounds of the words in the book. Does anyone else notice something special about some of the words? (Rhyming)
- Who can tell me what rhyming words are? What rhyming words did you notice?
- (p. 6) What does flapped mean? Show me how a bird flaps.
- (p. 11) Can you predict what will happen next? Why do you think that?
- (p.17) Who is this horrible beast?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:*

- What do you think this book taught us? Why do you think that?
- What word(s) would you use to describe how the witch was feeling when the dragon captured her?
- How about after the “beast” saved her?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- Hands up if you’ve ever dressed up as a witch.
- What do you think would be fun to dress up as for Halloween?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- The witch was very grateful to the animal friends. Model telling the children something you are grateful for in one or two sentences. Have students turn to a neighbor and share something they are grateful for. Back in large group ask for a few students to share. You can use the “me too” signal of pointing to themselves by their heart with their thumb if they agree.

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Do a book walk through the story having students retell in their own words.
- Search for words that describe how the animals moved. Act them out!
- Think of some other animals not in this book, can you think of other words that tell how these animals move?
- Why did the animals help save the witch?
- What important message will you take away from this story?

#### **Suggested Optional Activity:**

1. Before your session, print out pictures of the animals in the story. Mix them up and have the students put them in order of when they appear. Be sure to include a dragon.
2. Another alternative would be to provide a strip of paper and have students draw animals in order.

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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Who else could join the witch on her broom? Choose a different animal, not in the book, and write a description of the animal. For example, the frog was as clean as could be, the dog was as keen as could be. Draw the animal and write the description underneath.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- The witch created a broom to hold all the animal friends. Draw a different way she could have invented to transport them all.

## COMMON CORE LINKS

