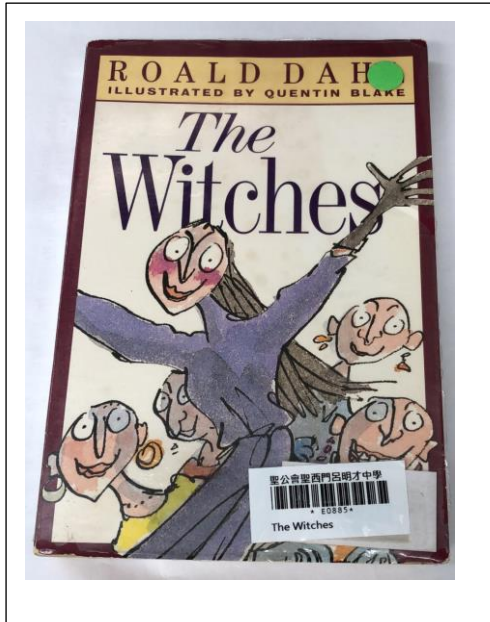


英文科好書推介

《The Witches》



國際書號 (ISBN) : 9780142410110

作者 : Roald Dahl

A review on the book “The Witches”

An unnamed seven year old little boy loses both of his parents in a car crash, in accordance to his deceased parent’s wishes, he goes to live with his Norwegian grandmother—a cigarette-smoking woman with a penchant for telling folklore stories, but what the elder tells the innocent child about witches isn’t just another story....

Witches, are real. They have blue saliva and large scalloped nostrils that allow them to smell children from long distances, they wear long gloves to hide their claw-like talons, wigs to hide their bald scalps, and fancy pointed shoes to hide their square squatched feet. Flames flicker deep into their colour changing pupils. And they have one burning desire, which is to rid the world of children. Recognising a witch before she notices and squelches you is your only chance of survival, (squelching is a tactic witches use to get rid of children)

The boy and his grandmother moves to England which was read in the will of his parents, although there might be fewer witches in England rather than Norway, English witches have a reputation for being vicious. On one

fateful occasion—the boy narrowly escapes from being squelched by hiding in a treehouse he previously built before until his dinner time where his grandmother finds him shaking and gripping the branches of the tree tightly. They originally planned their summer vacation in Norway, but his grandmother falls ill due to her bad habit of smoking cigarettes. Instead, they book two rooms at a lovely hotel in Bournemouth, England. The grandmother proceeds to gift the boy with two white mice to keep him occupied during their time there. While finding a quiet place attempting to train his mice to do gymnastics, the boy accidentally stumbles upon an empty ballroom reserved for a clan of strange ladies-aka the royal society for the prevention of cruelty to children labelled as RSPCC. Thinking the meeting has already been occurred, being naturally curious, the boy hides behind a smoke screen at the back of the room. But when the room is filled with woman, the boy realises they all are witches in disguise. He watched in horror as the grand high witch takes off her mask and reveals her dreaded face. He secretly listens to her plotting about turning all of the children in England into mice using her newly developed Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker. To stop it, he sneaked into the meeting. However, by accident, he was discovered and forced to swallow a whole bottle of Formula 86. He was then transformed into a mouse. Do you want to know how his grandmother helped him overcome it? Read the book.

It may be a bit too thrilling for some, but if you are looking for a somewhat scary story, you will find this book a real treat. It offers a great blend of humor and adventure for frightful fun. The book is available in our English Centre. Please do come and borrow it.