

The Worst Witch

Mildred Hubble was not your typical young witch. Clumsy, kind-hearted, and full of mischief, she often found herself in trouble at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches. The academy was an ancient institution, shrouded in mystery and magic, where young witches honed their skills under the watchful eye of strict teachers. Mildred's journey at the academy was anything but ordinary, and it began with the much-anticipated first-year assembly.

At the assembly, all first-years were gifted their own black kittens, symbols of their magical growth. These kittens would eventually ride broomsticks with their young witches, forming a bond of trust and companionship. Mildred's excitement quickly turned to surprise when she received not a sleek black kitten like the other girls, but a scruffy tabby cat she affectionately named Tabby. While the other kittens took to broomsticks with ease, Tabby was terrified of flying. Mildred, ever the empathetic soul, tucked him into her bag



rather than force him onto her broomstick. This act of kindness drew the disapproval of Miss Hardbroom, the stern and no-nonsense potions mistress, who ordered Mildred to stop. Mildred reluctantly complied, but her challenges were far from over.

Ethel Hallow, one of the brightest and most arrogant students in the academy, took delight in mocking Mildred for her unorthodox pet. One day, Ethel taunted her relentlessly, daring her to cast a transformation spell. Frustrated and embarrassed, Mildred lost her temper and attempted to turn Ethel into a frog. The spell went awry, and to everyone's shock, Ethel was turned into a pig instead. Chaos erupted, and though Ethel was eventually restored to her human form, the incident deepened the rivalry between the two girls.

The tension only grew during potion class when Mildred and her best friend Maud were tasked with creating a laughing potion. The two friends, caught up in a flurry of confusion, accidentally brewed an invisibility potion instead. Though unintentional, the mishap left their teacher fuming and added another mark against Mildred's record. Despite her earnest efforts, trouble seemed to follow her like a shadow.

As Halloween approached, the academy buzzed with excitement for the annual broomstick display. The event was a grand spectacle, where students showcased their flying skills before the Chief Magician. Determined to prove herself, Mildred borrowed a spare broomstick from Ethel. Unbeknownst to her, Ethel had cast a spell on the broomstick. During the performance, Mildred's broom began to buck and twist uncontrollably, sending the girls tumbling from the sky. The display ended in disaster, and the Chief Magician denounced the academy in front of all the students. Humiliated and fearful of expulsion, Mildred decided she could take no more. She packed her belongings, including a bewildered Tabby, and fled into the surrounding forests.

Wandering through the dark, eerie woods, Mildred stumbled upon a startling sight. Hidden among the trees, a group of witches gathered, plotting in hushed tones. Their leader bore an uncanny resemblance to Miss Cackle, the headmistress. Listening carefully, Mildred overheard their sinister plan to turn every teacher and student at the academy into frogs. Heart pounding, she realised the danger her school was in. Summoning all her courage, she cast a spell that transformed the witches into harmless snails. Carefully packing them into cardboard boxes, Mildred returned to the academy to warn Miss Cackle and Miss Hardbroom.

At first, the teachers were sceptical of Mildred's story. However, when she described the leader of the group, Miss Cackle's face turned pale. She recognised the description as that of her twin sister, Agatha, who had long harboured a grudge against the academy. With Mildred's help, the snails were restored to their human forms, and Agatha's scheme was foiled. Mildred's bravery had saved the school from a terrible fate.

The next morning, Mildred's reputation took a surprising turn. The broomstick mishap during the Halloween display was traced back to Ethel's sabotage. With the truth revealed, Mildred was vindicated. Her heroic actions were celebrated, and even Miss Hardbroom acknowledged her courage. The first-year who had seemed destined for trouble was now hailed as a saviour of the academy.

Mildred's journey at Miss Cackle's Academy was a testament to her resilience and compassion. Despite her mistakes and missteps, she proved that true heroism lies in standing up for what is right, even when the odds are stacked against you. From her scruffy tabby cat to her clumsy spells, Mildred Hubble showed that being different is not a weakness but a strength. Her adventures remind us all that bravery, kindness, and a touch of mischief can lead to extraordinary things.

Comprehension Questions (Multiple Choice)

- 1. What is the tradition at the first-year assembly at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches?**
 - a) Students receive new broomsticks.
 - b) Students are assigned a magical animal.
 - c) Students are taught their first spell.
 - d) Students brew their first potion.

2. **How does Mildred's pet, Tabby, differ from the other students' black kittens?**
 - a) Tabby is a dog instead of a cat.
 - b) Tabby is a tabby cat, not a black one.
 - c) Tabby is too small to sit on a broomstick.
 - d) Tabby is a magical creature.
 3. **Why does Miss Hardbroom disapprove of Mildred carrying Tabby in her bag?**
 - a) It is against the rules to carry pets in bags.
 - b) She thinks Mildred is too attached to Tabby.
 - c) She believes Mildred is not training Tabby properly.
 - d) She dislikes cats in general.
 4. **What happens when Mildred tries to transform Ethel into a frog?**
 - a) Ethel is turned into a pig.
 - b) Ethel becomes invisible.
 - c) The spell doesn't work.
 - d) Ethel is turned into a snail.
 5. **What mistake do Mildred and Maud make during their potion class?**
 - a) They brew a laughing potion instead of an invisibility potion.
 - b) They brew an invisibility potion instead of a laughing potion.
 - c) They brew a potion that explodes.
 - d) They accidentally brew a shrinking potion.
 6. **How does Ethel sabotage Mildred during the Halloween broomstick display?**
 - a) She tells the Chief Magician a lie about Mildred.
 - b) She puts a spell on Mildred's broomstick.
 - c) She replaces Mildred's broomstick with a broken one.
 - d) She makes Mildred's cat disappear.
 7. **What does Mildred overhear in the forest, and how does she react?**
 - a) She hears witches plotting to turn the students into frogs and turns them into snails.
 - b) She hears a secret about Miss Cackle and runs back to tell her.
 - c) She overhears a spell being cast and joins the witches.
 - d) She gets lost in the forest and finds her way back to school.
 8. **How is Mildred vindicated after the Halloween display?**
 - a) Miss Hardbroom apologises to her in front of the class.
 - b) Ethel confesses to sabotaging her broomstick.
 - c) The Chief Magician praises her bravery.
 - d) Miss Cackle awards her a medal for saving the school.
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Inference Questions (Multiple Choice)

1. **Why might Mildred feel isolated from her classmates?**
 - a) She struggles with magic more than the others.
 - b) She is disliked by Miss Cackle.
 - c) She has a different kind of pet than the others.
 - d) She does not try to make friends.

2. **What does Mildred's reaction to the witches in the forest tell us about her character?**
 - a) She is brave and quick-thinking.
 - b) She is reckless and careless.
 - c) She is scared of challenges.
 - d) She prefers to follow others' lead.

 3. **Why does Miss Hardbroom find it difficult to understand Mildred?**
 - a) Mildred breaks rules out of kindness.
 - b) Mildred is rebellious and stubborn.
 - c) Mildred refuses to take her advice.
 - d) Mildred does not respect authority.

 4. **What does the incident with the broomstick reveal about Ethel?**
 - a) Ethel feels threatened by Mildred's potential.
 - b) Ethel is trying to impress Miss Hardbroom.
 - c) Ethel enjoys playing pranks on everyone.
 - d) Ethel regrets her actions later.

 5. **Why is Mildred celebrated at the end of the story?**
 - a) She works hard to make up for her mistakes.
 - b) She demonstrates courage and cleverness.
 - c) She becomes the top student in her class.
 - d) She wins Miss Cackle's personal favour.
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Vocabulary Questions (Multiple Choice)

1. **What does "vindicated" mean in the context of the story?**
 - a) Blamed for something
 - b) Proved innocent or right
 - c) Punished for a mistake
 - d) Thanked for a kind deed

2. **What does the term "sabotage" mean?**
 - a) To support and encourage
 - b) To damage or interfere on purpose
 - c) To fix and improve something
 - d) To hide something important

Comprehension Questions (Multiple Choice with Answers and Explanations)

1. **What is the tradition at the first-year assembly at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches?**

Answer: b) Students are assigned a magical animal.

Explanation: The text clearly states that each first-year student receives a black kitten at the assembly, a tradition symbolising the bond between witches and their cats.

2. **How does Mildred's pet, Tabby, differ from the other students' black kittens?**

Answer: b) Tabby is a tabby cat, not a black one.

Explanation: Unlike the other girls, Mildred receives a tabby cat, which sets her apart and causes challenges with broomstick training.

3. **Why does Miss Hardbroom disapprove of Mildred carrying Tabby in her bag?**

Answer: c) She believes Mildred is not training Tabby properly.

Explanation: Miss Hardbroom expects all witches to teach their kittens to sit on broomsticks, and carrying Tabby in a bag goes against this expectation.

4. **What happens when Mildred tries to transform Ethel into a frog?**

Answer: a) Ethel is turned into a pig.

Explanation: Mildred's spell goes wrong due to her frustration, and instead of turning Ethel into a frog, she accidentally turns her into a pig.

5. **What mistake do Mildred and Maud make during their potion class?**

Answer: b) They brew an invisibility potion instead of a laughing potion.

Explanation: The text mentions that the girls unintentionally create an invisibility potion, highlighting their error during the test.

6. **How does Ethel sabotage Mildred during the Halloween broomstick display?**

Answer: b) She puts a spell on Mildred's broomstick.

Explanation: Ethel secretly casts a spell on the broom Mildred borrows, causing it to malfunction during the display.

7. **What does Mildred overhear in the forest, and how does she react?**

Answer: a) She hears witches plotting to turn the students into frogs and turns them into snails.

Explanation: Mildred overhears the witches' evil plan and acts courageously by transforming them into snails to protect the academy.

8. **How is Mildred vindicated after the Halloween display?**

Answer: b) Ethel confesses to sabotaging her broomstick.

Explanation: The sabotage is exposed, clearing Mildred's name and showing that she was not at fault for the mishap.

Inference Questions (Multiple Choice with Answers and Explanations)

1. **Why might Mildred feel isolated from her classmates?**

Answer: c) She has a different kind of pet than the others.

Explanation: The difference in her kitten, combined with her clumsiness, makes her stand out, leading to teasing from others like Ethel.

2. **What does Mildred's reaction to the witches in the forest tell us about her character?**

Answer: a) She is brave and quick-thinking.

Explanation: Mildred acts decisively and courageously to stop the witches, showing her resourcefulness and bravery despite her fears.

3. **Why does Miss Hardbroom find it difficult to understand Mildred?**

Answer: a) Mildred breaks rules out of kindness.

Explanation: Mildred's actions, such as carrying Tabby in her bag, are driven by empathy but clash with Miss Hardbroom's strict expectations.

4. **What does the incident with the broomstick reveal about Ethel?**

Answer: a) Ethel feels threatened by Mildred's potential.

Explanation: Ethel's sabotage suggests jealousy and insecurity, as she sees Mildred as a rival despite her clumsiness.

5. **Why is Mildred celebrated at the end of the story?**

Answer: b) She demonstrates courage and cleverness.

Explanation: Mildred's actions save the school, proving her worth and earning her recognition despite earlier mishaps.

Vocabulary Questions (Multiple Choice with Answers and Explanations)

1. **What does "vindicated" mean in the context of the story?**

Answer: b) Proved innocent or right.

Explanation: When Ethel's sabotage is revealed, Mildred is no longer blamed for the Halloween disaster and is recognised as innocent.

2. **What does the term "sabotage" mean?**

Answer: b) To damage or interfere on purpose.

Explanation: Ethel deliberately casts a spell on Mildred's broomstick to cause trouble, which is an act of sabotage.