

# Digital Learning Links

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## The Widow's Broom

By Chris Van Allsburg

Mentor Sentence Focus Standard L.1

Reading Lesson Ideas:  
R1. Students make inferences about how the broom is feeling based on "don't tell" language.

R2. Students can determine the theme of the book.

R3. Students describe Minna's character in depth through her thoughts, words, and actions.

R4. Students compare Minna and Mr. Spivey, and how they react to the broom in various circumstances.

R5. Students use context clues to determine the meaning of domain-specific words from the book (for example, slumbering).

R6. Students can retell the story from another character's point of view like Mr. Spivey.

R7. Students can discuss how the illustrations create a mysterious mood.

Writing Lesson Ideas:  
W.1 Students imagine an everyday object comes to life and describe what they would teach it to do.

Out of a moonlit sky  
a dark cloaked figure  
came spinning to the  
ground.

## ~The Widow's Broom

Monday – possibilities of things to notice \*prepositional phrases (starts and ends) descriptive – adjectives vivid verb simple sentence deck

Out of a moonlit sky a dark cloaked figure came spinning to the ground, complete subject simple subject

Wednesday – possibilities of revising sentences

Out of a moonlit sky a shadowy figure came fiercely spinning to the ground.

Friday – possibilities of revising sentences

6. The dog caught the broom by the handle.

7. The broom was clutching at the campsite.

8. The broom was crawling over the campsite.

9. The broom was clutching at the campsite.

10. The broom was crawling over the campsite.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Use the text and picture clues to help you infer the meaning of these words.

WORD PART OF SPEECH WORD CLUES YOUR DEFINITION

cloaked adjective The witch wore a black cape. covered

wounds noun She was bruised and bloody and couldn't stand. injuries, cuts, scars

embers noun The fire was dying out and she picked up a red hot coal. small pieces of burning wood or coal

clutching verb The broom held onto something. holding or gripping

amuse verb The broom liked to sweep so a dirt road kept him busy. entertain

slumbering adjective Minna says the broom is sleeping in the closet. sleeping

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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# THE WIDOW'S BROOM

## mentor text unit

Mentor Sentence Lesson  
Interactive Activity  
Reading Activities  
Writing Prompt  
Vocabulary



BUT ARE INCLUDED

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## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

The Widow's Broom

Prepositional phrases tell where or when a noun or a verb is, so they can contain adjectives or adverbs. Although prepositional phrases always contain a noun, it will NEVER be the subject of a sentence. Cut out the activity and glue it into your notebook, cutting across so there are five flaps. Under each flap, write a sentence about the broom using the prepositional phrase.

Prepositional Phrases

in the kitchen

across the floor

behind the closet door

on the roof

under the stars

over the campsite

out of the closet

into the house

onto the roof

under the stars

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