

A Magical Muddle

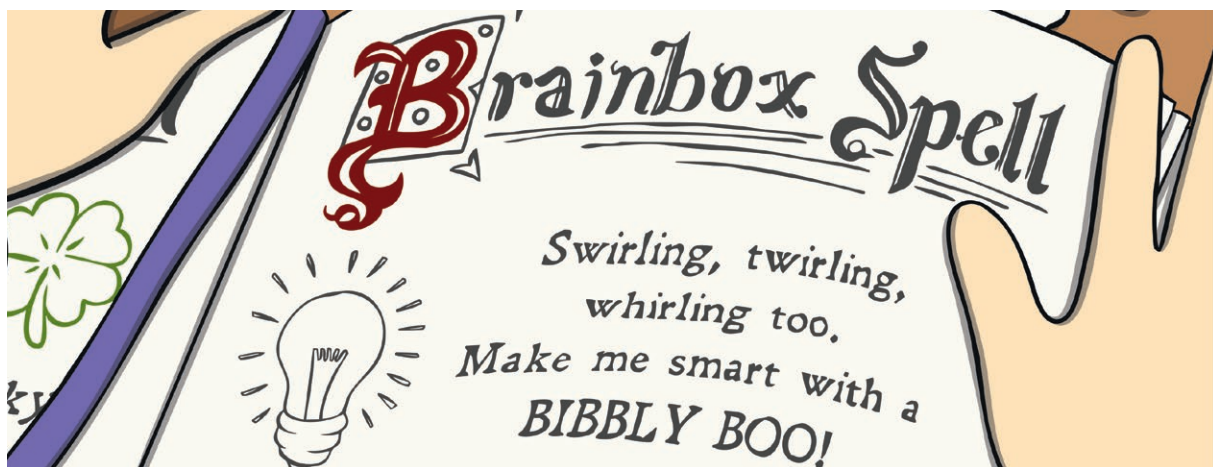
It was Monday evening at Cobwebs School for Young Witches. Tabitha and her friends took their seats as their teacher, Miss Brewer, walked into the classroom. She was the strictest teacher in school.

“Today is a very important day!” announced Miss Brewer. “The Head Witch will be coming to inspect the school and we must all be on our **best** behaviour.”



Tabitha was worried. She wanted to impress the Head Witch but sometimes, her spells went wrong. Tabitha needed a brilliant idea...

At playtime, she crept into the library and found a dusty spellbook. Inside it, there was a brainbox spell. ‘This will make me really clever and that will impress the Head Witch!’ she thought. She took out her wand but before she could cast the spell, she heard some footsteps. Tabitha knew she wasn’t supposed to be inside at playtime so she read the spell quickly and tried to remember it.



Then, she slammed the book shut and raced outside.



When no one was looking, Tabitha started to spin. “Swirling, twirling, whirling too. Make me smart with a dibbly doo!” And with that, there was a huge puff of smoke.

When Tabitha returned to class, Miss Brewer was angry. “What will the Head Witch say when she sees this?” she asked crossly. “Of all the days to have a cat in class!”



Tabitha explained what had happened. “I must have got the spell wrong,” she said.

“Well, make sure you change yourself back into a witch before our special visitor arrives,” said Miss Brewer.

But Tabitha didn’t know how!

At lunchtime, Mimi offered to help Tabitha. “I know the brainbox spell,” she said. “If I cast it on myself, I will become clever enough to change you back!” Mimi started to spin.



“Swirling, twirling, whirling too. Make me smart with a wibbly woo!” And with that, there was a huge puff of smoke.

Miss Brewer looked angrier than ever as the two young witches explained what had happened.

“I must have got the spell wrong,” said Mimi.



"Of all the days to have a cat and a zebra in class!" said Miss Brewer. "Just make sure you change yourselves back into witches before our special visitor arrives."

But Tabitha and Mimi didn't know how!

When Miss Brewer left the room, Agnes offered to help them. "I know the brainbox spell," she said. "If I cast it on myself, I will become clever enough to change you back!" Agnes started to spin. "Swirling, twirling, whirling too. Make me smart with a hibly hoo!" And with that, there was a huge puff of smoke.

Miss Brewer's head looked like it was about to explode as the three young witches explained what had happened.

"I must have got the spell wrong," said Agnes.



"I'll help!" said Freya from the back row. "Swirling, twirling, whirling too. Make me smart with a ribbly roo!"

"No, that's not it. Watch me!" shouted Beatrix, coughing in the smoke. "Swirling, twirling, whirling too. Make me smart with a gibbly goo!"

One by one, each young witch tried to cast the brainbox spell on themselves and, one by one, they got it wrong. Soon, the room was full of animals!

"That's enough!" shouted Miss Brewer sternly. "Do I have to do everything myself around here?" She took out her wand and started to cast a spell. "Nimble Bimble, mend the glitches. Turn these creatures back to... Atchoo!" Miss Brewer sneezed and, with a puff of smoke, turned herself into a giraffe! "Oh, no!" she cried. "Of all the days to be a giraffe!"



Just at that moment, the door opened and in walked the Head Witch, who looked very shocked indeed. She turned to Miss Brewer, who was explaining what had happened, and began to... laugh! "What a welcome!" the Head Witch chuckled. "I just **love** to see young witches who want to give things a try and help each other out!"



Miss Brewer stopped looking so worried and began to laugh as well.

"Now," said the Head Witch, putting some ticks on her inspection sheet, "I'm feeling quite left out. Who can turn me into a unicorn?"

Tabitha raised her paw. "I don't know if I can," she said, "but I could give it a try!"

"Just do your best," said the Head Witch, "and don't worry if it goes wrong – I always did like surprises!"



Questions

1. Who is Tabitha? Tick one.

- ☐ a young witch
- ☐ a wizard
- ☐ a teacher

2. Who is the important person coming to visit the school? Tick one.

- ☐ the Head Dragon
- ☐ the Head Witch
- ☐ a teacher

3. What spell did Tabitha try to cast? Tick one.

- ☐ a friendly spell
- ☐ a brainbox spell
- ☐ a kindness spell

4. What animal did Tabitha turn herself into? Tick one.

- ☐ a giraffe
- ☐ a hippo
- ☐ a cat

5. What did the other witches do? Tick one.

- ☐ They tried to help Tabitha by casting the spell on themselves.
- ☐ They shouted at Tabitha for making them look silly.
- ☐ They laughed at Tabitha for turning herself into a cat.

Answers

1. Who is Tabitha? Tick one.

- ☒ **a young witch**
- ☐ a wizard
- ☐ a teacher

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Questions

1. What is the name of Tabitha's school? Tick one.

- ☐ Magical School for Young Witches
- ☐ Cobwebs School for Young Witches
- ☐ Cauldron's School for Young Witches

2. Where does Tabitha sneak into at playtime? Tick one.

- ☐ the library
- ☐ the kitchen
- ☐ the potion room

3. What happened to Tabitha after she tried to cast the brainbox spell?

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

"Today is a very

Make me smart with a
dibbly doo!"

"Swirling, twirling,
whirling too.

offered to help Tabitha.

At lunchtime, Mimi

important day!"

5. Complete this sentence.

"Who can turn me into a _____?"

dragon

dog

unicorn

Answers

1. What is the name of Tabitha's school? Tick one.

- ☐ Magical School for Young Witches
- ☒ **Cobwebs School for Young Witches**
- ☐ Cauldron's School for Young Witches

2. Where does Tabitha sneak into at playtime? Tick one.

- ☒ **the library**
- ☐ the kitchen
- ☐ the potion room

3. What happened to Tabitha after she tried to cast the brainbox spell?

Tabitha got the spell wrong and turned into a cat.

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

"Today is a very	•	Make me smart with a dibbly doo!"
"Swirling, twirling, whirling too.	•	offered to help Tabitha.
At lunchtime, Mimi	•	important day!"

5. Complete this sentence.

"Who can turn me into a **unicorn?**"

Questions

1. How is Miss Brewer described? Tick one.

- ☐ the funniest teacher
- ☐ the scariest teacher
- ☐ the strictest teacher

2. What is Tabitha worried about?

3. Underline the verbs in this passage from the story.

At playtime, she crept into the library and found a dusty spellbook.

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.

inspect

cause a magic spell to take effect

cast

to laugh or giggle

chuckled

examine someone or something closely

5. What did the other witches offer to do to help Tabitha?

6. Why do you think the Head Witch laughed when she saw Miss Brewer and the witches?

Answers

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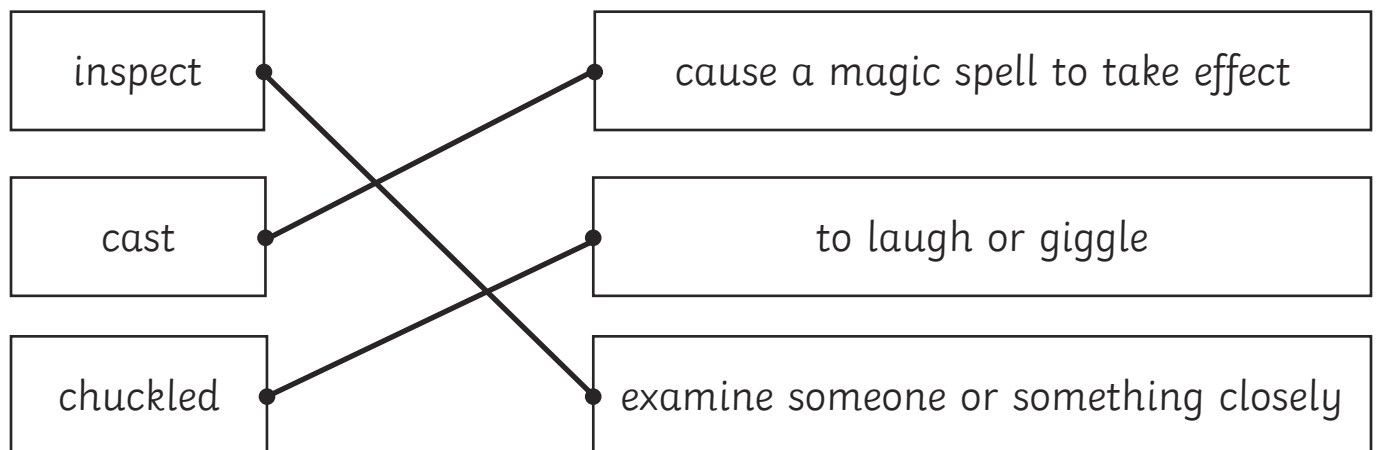
2. What is Tabitha worried about?

Tabitha wants to impress the Head Witch but sometimes her spells go wrong.

3. Underline the verbs in this passage from the story.

At playtime, she crept into the library and found a dusty spellbook.

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.



5. What did the other witches offer to do to help Tabitha?

The other witches all offered to help by performing the spell on themselves. They then hoped to undo Tabitha's spell which went wrong.

6. Why do you think the Head Witch laughed when she saw Miss Brewer and the witches?

The Head Witch thought they all looked funny. She was impressed that Tabitha wanted to give something new a try. She also loved that the other witches helped Tabitha out.