Rita series

Rita wants a Witch

Author: Máire Zepf
Illustrator: Andrew Whitson
Age: 3-5
Format: Paperback
Language: English
Size: 250 x 250mm
Price: £7.99

Vocabulary
Halloween
Magical
Broomstick
Brew
 Spells
Bully
Nightmares
Ruin.

Front cover
Discussion
Who do you see?
What are they doing?
Let’s read the title. The title is the name of the book.
Whose names are under the title?
The author has written the book.
The illustrator has drawn the pictures.
Where is Rita?
What do we do with a broom?
Can you think of other stories with a witch?

Activities
Create a mobile of Halloween objects.

Inside spread
Discussion
What do you see?
How many bats are there?
More than 10? 20? 30?

Activities
Find out about bats.
Make a bat mask to wear.
**Dedication**

Discussion

Sometimes the author will dedicate the book to someone – this one is dedicated to Mums, Tom and Frank.

Would you dedicate a book to someone?

What is the box with lines for?

**Activities**

Look at other books to see who they have been written for or dedicated to.

Create personal stickers to put on your personal things (e.g. pencil case, book).

**Pages 4 & 5**

Discussion

What can you see?

What is in the cart?

How is Rita moving it?

Why does she want a pumpkin?

What do you think she will do with it?

**Activities**

Find out about old wives tales and superstitions e.g. black cats.

Make pumpkin soup or baby pumpkin faces using satsumas.

**Pages 6 & 7**

Discussion

Who do you see?

How many bats are there?

Describe the witch.

What shapes are around her? How many?

**Activities**

Create a display with Halloween objects.

**Pages 8 & 9**

Discussion

What is the yellow and orange object behind Rita?

Count the stars.

Do you like the witch’s shoes?

**Activities**

Make lists of things that fly.

Find out about things that come out at night and in the day.

Create shadow drawings.
**Pages 10 & 11**

**Discussion**
Oh dear, what is happening here?
What can you see?
Which rooms have these objects come from?

**Activities**
Play a what’s missing game. Place items on a tray and take one away when they are closing their eyes.

---

**Pages 12 & 13**

**Discussion**
Where is Rita now?
How do you know?
What is on the table?
How many green bottles are there?
What does Rita have in her hand?

**Activities**
Create a spells and potions area to experiment with in the class or outdoors.

---

**Pages 14 & 15**

**Discussion**
What is on the bully’s face?
Have you been unwell and had spots?
How did it feel?
What would you turn your teacher into?

**Activities**
Learn about keeping healthy and clean.
Wash glitter or paint off your hands and dry them properly.
Visit a local surgery.

---

**Pages 16 & 17**

**Discussion**
Where is Rita now?
Is she happy?
Can you see the fluffy stripey thing?

**Activities**
Create new characters for the *Monsters Inc.* with lots of different patterns on them.
Pages 18 & 19
Discussion
Can you see the fancy dress costumes?
Which is your favourite?
Have you dressed up before?
Activities
Practice different movement – walking, running, crawling, hopping.

Pages 20 & 21
Discussion
Rita is unwell – what has the witch given her?
Is that what we take to get better?
Where should the witch have gone?
Activities
Create a surgery or hospital roleplay area.
Play a consequences game: if you do this, this is what happens.

Pages 22 & 23
Discussion
What is the meaning of mean and nasty?
Have you ever been mean?
How did you say sorry (apologise)?
Activities
Learn about opposites:
Day/night.
Black/white.

Pages 24 & 25
Discussion
What can you see in the picture?
Do you like Rita’s new outfit?
Activities
How many ice cream flavours can you think of? Find out about others.
Make up yucky flavours that the witch would like.
Pages 26 & 27
Discussion
Would you like to be kissed by the witch?
What is flying around her?
Activities
Create drawings and paintings of witches.

Pages 28 & 29
Discussion
What can you see in the pot?
Let’s write a list (recipe) for the witch’s tea.
Does Rita look happy?
Activities
Follow a recipe to make a tasty cawl or stew.

Pages 30 & 31
Discussion
Where is Rita now?
What has happened to her friends?
Activities
What would be your superpower?
What would your superhero name be?

Pages 32 & 33
Discussion
What do you think is going to happen next?
What can you see on the right/left of the page?
Activities
Make a top ten list of food – healthy and treats.

Pages 34 & 35
Discussion
What is wrong with Rita?
How does the witch feel?
Talk about being sly.
Activities
Make shadow puppet shows.
Page 36 & 37

Discussion
What does Rita think now?
Does she want a witch?
What other stories have a witch and water?

Activities
Find out about ways we use water every day.

Page 38 & 39

Discussion
What is happening in this picture?
How many are playing?
What are they dressed up as?

Back cover

Discussion
What do you see on the back cover?
The blurb – this is a short description of the story.
What else can you see?

Activities
Record your own blurb for the book.
Compare the back of this book with another. What is the same and different?

RITA SERIES:

Rita wants a Witch
ISBN 9781802580402

Rita wants a Robot
ISBN 9781914079672

Rita wants a Ninja
ISBN 9781802580464

Rita wants a Fairy Godmother
ISBN 9781802580440

Rita wants a Dragon
ISBN 9781914079665

Rita wants a Genie
ISBN 9781802580464

These notes may contain links to third party websites. Graffeg does not endorse such website(s) or their contents and is not responsible for such contents and makes no representations or warranties regarding the contents, accuracy or functionality of such website(s).