

## The Ride-by-Nights

(Walter de la Mare)

Through reading this story, the student will be listening and responding to sensory stimuli associated with it. They will use their individual communication systems to communicate whether they want more or to finish, taking some control over their environment and engaging with the supporting adult, who will know how the student communicates.

You will need:

- Clutch of twigs to represent a witch's broomstick.
- Torch or candle
- Mirror
- Black cloak or sheet
- Cuddly or plastic lion toy or a lion puppet
- Sound effects (e.g. Switch, YouTube, MP3): witches cackling; lion's roar; dog's bark.
- Atmospheric cosmic music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvctK5KjxIE>
- A bag to contain all of the above and which the student will explore before the story begins

1. Tell the student(s) that they are going to use:
  - Their ears to listen
  - Their eyes to look
  - Their noses to smell
  - Their hands to feelAdult models pointing to each and supports the student(s) to touch their own.
2. Continue by saying we are going to listen to a story. Show each student their story bag allowing them to feel and smell saying, "*(Student's name), it's story time.*"
3. Support student(s) to feel, touch and smell the story bag as a cue to the activity.
4. Introduce the story, telling the student(s) it is a story about the journey taken by group of witches as they have fun flying through the night sky.
5. Read the story slowly, allowing time for the student(s) to lead the session by giving them time to explore.

## The Story

Up on their brooms the witches stream,

EXPLORE (WITCH'S) BROOMSTICK; BRUSH STUDENT LIGHTLY ON THE FOREARMS.

Crooked and black in the crescent's gleam.

MAKE SHADOWS ON THE WALL USING A TORCH OR CANDLE.

One foot high and one foot low,

MOVE THE STUDENT'S FEET UP AND DOWN AND/OR STAMP THEM ON THE FLOOR.

Bearded, cloaked and cowed they go.

HIDE UNDER A BLACK CLOAK (OR SHEET).

'Neath Charlie's Wain they twitter and tweet  
And away they swarm 'neath the dragon's feet.

PLAY ATMOSPHERIC MUSIC USING YOUTUBE OR MP3 AND/OR A WITCH'S CACKLE USING  
A SWITCH

With a whoop and a flutter, they swing and sway

MAKE WHOOPING SOUNDS; ROCK SIDE-TO-SIDE AND SWOOP LIKE AN AEROPLANE  
(AROUND THE ROOM).

And surge pell-mell down the milky way.

ROCK SIDE-TO-SIDE AND SWOOP LIKE AN AEROPLANE (AROUND THE ROOM); PUT A  
SCARF OVER THE STUDENT'S HEAD (OR OWN HEAD) – PULL OFF AND PEEK-A-BOO.

Between the legs of the glittering chair,  
They hover and squeak in the empty air.

FAN THE STUDENT WITH A SHEET OF CARD OR ELECTRIC FAN.

Then round they swoop past the glimmering lion,

PLAY WITH A PLASTIC OR CUDDLY LION TOY; LION'S ROAR SOUND EFFECTS USING A  
SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

## Sensory Story

To where Sirius barks behind huge Orion.

A DOG'S BARKING SOUND EFFECTS USING A SWITCH, YOUTUBE OR MP3.

Up, then, and over to wheel amain

REACH HANDS UP FROM ONE SIDE AND CIRCLE OVER TO THE OTHER.

Under the silver and home again.

REFLECT A TORCH'S OR CANDLE'S LIGHT FROM A MIRROR.

---

Tell the student(s) story time is over; support them to help pack their bags as cue to the end of the session.