



jamesnicolbooks.com

 @JamesENicol

A WITCH COME TRUE

James Nicol

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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theaderteacher.com



chickenhousebooks.com

Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross Curricular Opportunities

Front cover (Illustrated by Daniela Terrazzini)

Ask children to look at the front cover:

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- Why do you think the book has the title *A Witch Come True*? How is this similar to *The Apprentice Witch*? How is it different?
- What kind of story will it be? What genre do you think it belongs to?
- Who might enjoy it? Based on the cover, who might you recommend it to? Why?
- Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?

Write what children can observe (*I can see ...*); what they can infer (*I think ... because ...*); and what they want to question about the cover (*I wonder if/what ...? etc.*).

ART • Draw alternative covers for the book using James Nicol's own resources on his website: bit.ly/TAW-cover-design

Message from Chicken House

- Upon hearing this personal message from the book's publisher, what does this add to your predictions about the cover and the story?
- Does what Barry Cunningham said make you think about any other stories that you have previously read?
- Why do you think the publisher uniquely chooses to put these messages in the front of their books?

After reading the story, write your own messages of reflection about the book to other readers in the school to recommend it to them.

DRAMA/DANCE • Record your messages and attach them to books in the classroom or school library, using QR codes for other children to scan to see video recommendations.



Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
Map of Lull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which building is next to the Spellorium? • Which road runs out of the West Gate? • Why has the author chosen to include a map of Lull at the start of the book? • Can you recall any events that have happened in these places? 	<p>Choose a place from the map. Write a diary entry from the perspective of Arianwyn, talking about your experiences of this place. Is it a happy or sad place for her? Why?</p>	<p>WRITING • Photocopy and enlarge the map of Lull. Make an overlay with coordinates or grid references. Locate the places using these, and describe them using compass directions.</p>
Paragraph from <i>A Witch Alone: A Manual for the Newly Qualified Witch</i> (pages 3-4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the name of the shadow glyph? What does it mean? • What does 'obscure' mean? • What is the glyph's specialist power in defeating? • Why do you think James has included this excerpt before the first chapter? 		
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would Arianwyn have been gripping the paper tightly? • What is Arianwyn's father's name? • What else could Sergeant Gribble be thinking about? 	<p>Write a diary entry describing Arianwyn's thought and emotions upon seeing her father for the first time in a while.</p> <p>Write a setting description of the hospital.</p>	



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2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Arianwyn's father suddenly sound a little formal at the start of this chapter? Why? Act this out with a partner to share a shift in formality. Why does Sergeant Gribble dismiss the charm by stuffing it in his pocket? How does this make Arianwyn feel? Grandmother is described as giving the nurse the 'full works'. What does this phrase mean in this context? How do we know she is very annoyed in this situation? Predict who could have visited Arianwyn's father that morning. 	Put yourself in the character of Arianwyn's father. Write a recount from his perspective about fighting during the war and his experiences.	<p>ART/DT • Based on the description of the Urisian witch in the photograph, draw your impression of this character.</p> <p>P4C • Discuss mental health with the class. Draw attention to the way Sergeant Gribble is feeling after war and raise awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the personality of Salle has changed since meeting Arianwyn. What does it mean to ask something 'incredulously'? How is Mrs Alverston similar to her daughter, Gimma? How is she different? How do you think the character of Mrs Alverston will affect the story? 	Summarize the character of Mrs Alverston in a sentence.	ART/DT • Create a missing poster for Gimma, with a warning to others about the dangers of the hex.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Arianwyn surprised to see Colin backstage with Salle? What has caused the problem with the wiring and the stage lighting? What is an auditorium? Do you trust the witches that spoke to Arianwyn and Grandmother? Why or why not? 	Write a description about what it's like to be backstage in the theatre.	DRAMA/DANCE • Learn about the parts of a theatre and what goes into running a show, including lighting and set design.



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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'coincidence'? • Why doesn't Sergeant Gribble shake Colin's hand? • Summarize Arianwyn's father's reactions to Arianwyn's friends in a sentence. • Why might Sergeant Gribble be acting the way he is? Is it because of his injuries or is it because of something else? Explain your thinking. 	Write a diary entry from the viewpoint of Arianwyn's father, Sergeant Gribble, and his thoughts upon meeting Salle and Colin. Try to explain your hostility towards Colin.	ART/DT • Draw what you think can be seen in the photograph.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 'make a detour' mean? • How does the description of the house make it seem 'imposing'? • What voice might the characters of Mrs Alverston and Lucas use? • Why does Mrs Alverston seem quick to change the subject of her and Arianwyn's conversation? Why does she try to hurry Arianwyn back out of the door? 	Imagine you are the onlooker in the Alverston house that Arianwyn thinks she sees. Write an account of what you see when you are watching the interactions between Gimma and Arianwyn.	DRAMA/DANCE • Work in a group of four to act out the exchanges between Arianwyn, Mrs Alverston, Lucas and Gimma outside and inside the house during this chapter – think about facial expression, use of voice and body language.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find one word on page 60 that is similar in meaning to 'someone you know slightly, but who is not a close friend'. (acquaintance) • What is your initial impression of Hettie Cummings? Why? • Why is it strange that the pocket of magic is visible to Marcel and Mr Andrews as well as to the witches? • What is the effect of the author ending the chapter with the two-word sentence '<i>Polluted it.</i>'? • Do you think the witches will be able to remove the pocket of magic from the line? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. 	Write a character description of Hettie Cummings, describing her feelings, appearance, speech and thoughts.	P4C • Within this chapter, Arianwyn describes how the quiet glyphs are due to her self-discovery. Discuss a skill that you have discovered about yourself and present it to your class.



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8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though Hettie is the senior witch, why does it appear that Arianwyn takes charge of the situation? • Why is the chapter called 'What an Afternoon'? • Why does Hettie Cummings repeat the word 'sweetie' at the end of the chapter? Why is this ironic? What effect does this have on the reader? • Define the word 'translucent' in the paragraph about <i>Êmparris – The Glyph of Silence</i> on page 76. 	<p>Write an alternative story where Arianwyn cannot remove the pocket of magic from the line. What does she do instead? How does Hettie help her?</p>	<p>DRAMA/DANCE • In groups of three, dramatize and come up with voices for the scene between Arianwyn, Hettie Cummings and Mr Andrews. Record bits of speech and improvise using your character voices.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On page 80, Arianwyn is described as 'rummaging' through the wardrobe. Can you act this out? • Which literary character does Aunt Grace remind you of when she is described with a small woven basket over her arm and a red-and-white checked cloth covering the basket's contents? (Little Red Riding Hood) • Why does it appear that Mayor Belcher wears his mayoral sash and medal in all conditions? What does this suggest about him? • Predict how Arianwyn will move the qered in the easiest way possible. 	<p>Imagine you are Arianwyn. Write an official report to the C.W.A. about your encounter with the seam of magic and the hex.</p>	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'herbivore'? • Why are the words 'sloshing', 'squelchy' and 'churning' effective in describing the conditions that Arianwyn experiences? • How does the author use descriptions of sound effectively within this chapter? • Why does the focus shift from Miss Delafield having to sit down to Arianwyn having to sit down at the end of the chapter? How does this show a contrast in their feelings? 	<p>Create a glossary of magical terminology that you think readers of this book might need further clarification to understand.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Learn more about herbivores and their place in the food chain.</p>



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11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do the words in this chapter suggest about the character of Miss Delafield? • What is the solemn and sacred duty that she chooses to live by? • If Arianwyn had thrown her arms around Miss Delafield, what do you think her reaction would have been? • Why do you think Arianwyn feels that she can't do this to Miss Delafield? • What does it mean to be outside of someone's jurisdiction? 	<p>Imagine you are Mayor Belcher. Write a letter to those who have made the decision to relocate Miss Delafield, to try to prevent it from happening.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Find out more about traditions, especially around Christmas time and throughout history. Which traditions do we still celebrate today?</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and copy a group of words on page 105 that show that the weather is not the best in the morning. • Summarize Arianwyn's change in emotion from the start to the end of this chapter. • How does James Nicol show that Arianwyn has empathy for Estar towards the end of this chapter? 	<p>Rewrite this chapter from the point of view of Estar. Show his disappointment as he walks off into the Great Wood.</p>	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it appear most of the customers have come for at the Spellorium? • How would you describe the character of Mrs Caulls in this chapter? • Predict what Bob, the moon hare, may have seen. 	<p>Write a diary entry from the perspective of Arianwyn sharing how happy she is upon hearing the news about her father, grandmother and Salle arriving soon.</p>	<p>ART/DT • Using natural materials that you can find in your school grounds, make your very own Yule charm.</p>



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14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the effect of ending the first page of this chapter with the word 'just'? Why does Arianwyn's father react like he does when she hugs him? There are some fantastic verbs used in this chapter to mean 'to cover'. Find at least two examples. (shrouded in, enveloping). 	Write down the inner thoughts of Arianwyn and Sergeant Gribble within this chapter. What are each of them thinking about each other?	DRAMA/DANCE • Re-enact the station scene through drama and freeze frame. Don't use any dialogue. Make sure to show the reactions of Sergeant Gribble towards Arianwyn and Colin.
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what way do we know that Sergeant Gribble's mood changes on the bus ride back? Why does he strike up a conversation with Mr Thorn? What does he have in common with him? Explain what the you-know-what is. Compare the reaction of Arianwyn's father towards Arianwyn to the reaction of Salle's father towards Salle. 	Write your own story: what if your house was covered in ice and you weren't able to get out? What would the outside be like? What about the inside?	SCIENCE • Learn more about the scientific process of freezing and states of matter. What is the freezing point of water? Think about other uses of freezing, like freezing food to preserve it, and even cryobiology.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was Colin's tradition for Yule? Why does Arianwyn cling to her grandmother's hands? Read to the end of page 148. Predict what Grandmother had seen for Salle when fire gazing. 	Write a continuation of this chapter, describing what it means when Arianwyn sees what she sees in the fire.	P4C • Grandmother's favourite tradition is fire gazing, or looking into the future. Do you believe in predicting the future? Find out more about the art of fortune-telling, and discuss as a class what might happen in your future.



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17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Sergeant Gribble take the role of father over Arianwyn at the start of this chapter? What is the name of the carthorse? What does the word 'hefting' suggest about the heaviness of the wicker basket they are carrying? Why was the loud scream 'unmistakeably' from Mayor Belcher? 	Write a persuasive letter listing reasons why Arianwyn should be allowed to go Yule log cutting in the Great Wood.	ART/DT • Imagine you are Arianwyn. Sketch the quiet glyph you have seen as accurately as you can.
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read to the end of page 162. Predict what 'it' is. Why didn't Estar sound surprised by the appearance of a new glyph? What does it mean to 'preside over' something? 	Write a song to summon the phoenix. Think about rhyme, rhythm and repetition when writing your lyrics.	MUSIC • In pairs, sing your song to music. Create a piece of music that would complement your lyrics. Think about tempo, pitch, dynamics and the range of instruments you can use to achieve this.
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why were the loudest cheers heard from Aunt Grace and Uncle Mat? Why does Arianwyn suddenly want to leave after seeing Salle and Colin together? 	Rewrite this chapter from the perspective of Salle. Describe her thoughts and feelings. Compare this to how Arianwyn is feeling.	
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Salle look like she doesn't believe that Arianwyn had some errands to run? List two ways in which James Nicol shows that Arianwyn is nervous before the summoning of the phoenix. 	Imagine you are one of the people in the crowd. Write an eyewitness report about the summoning of the frost phoenix, from Arianwyn and Salle singing	ENGLISH • Explore the mythology of the phoenix. What type of bird is it? What other pieces of literature or writing does it appear in? What is its significance? What does it usually represent?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Arianwyn and Salle expect to see two frost phoenixes? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the text. 	the song to the pair of frost phoenixes arriving. Describe in detail what you saw.	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did the mayor make sure he was the first person photographed with the frost phoenixes? What do the actions of Salle and Colin with the 'wands' suggest about their characters? What are 'braziers'? 	Write a wish that you would like to put into the kiln on a piece of paper. What would you wish for?	DRAMA/DANCE • Choreograph a dance routine to mimic the movement of the phoenixes. Add music to your routine.
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List two ways in which Arianwyn had felt she had been standing beside the kiln for hours. Predict what the wish that Grandmother had placed into the kiln might have said. 	Write a continuation of this chapter, expressing Arianwyn's shock at the disappearance of her grandmother. What will her first words be?	ART/DT • Draw the picture of what you think Arianwyn's mother looks like as a newly qualified witch, based on the description given.
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Arianwyn know that Grandmother has definitely gone missing and that she has not dropped her scarf by accident? Describe the relationship between Arianwyn and her father in this chapter. Why has the author chosen to use colour to aid description in this chapter? How is it effective? Think about the last sentence of the chapter: '<i>... white and white – and then black.</i>' 	Summarize the events of the chapter in three to five full sentences, capturing the action that has happened using a range of adjectives, verbs and adverbs.	



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24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'traitor'? Explain why Arianwyn uses this word to describe the High Elder. • How have the roles of father and daughter changed for Sergeant Gribble and Arianwyn? • What do you think will happen next in the story? What does the last paragraph suggest will happen? 	Write an extract from <i>The New Book of Quiet Glyphs</i> by Arianwyn Gribble about the newest glyph she has just seen – Draxen.	
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the phrase '<i>he seemed more like his old self</i>' mean? Explain what Sergeant Gribble might have been like before. • Why is the simile '<i>It was like a gigantic flowing jellyfish</i>' effective when describing the maudant? • As Arianwyn sees the High Elder, what emotions might she be feeling? 		
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the demeanours of Arianwyn and the High Elder in this chapter. Why do they act differently from one another? • What does 'indispensable' mean? • Do you think Arianwyn should exchange her notebook of quiet glyphs for the return of her grandmother? Would <i>you</i> do it? 	Write Arianwyn's inner monologue as she thinks about giving away her notebook in exchange for her grandmother.	<p>DRAMA/DANCE • In pairs, re-enact the scene with one being Arianwyn, and the other being the High Elder. Think about how you can make it dramatic.</p> <p>P4C • The High Elder wants the power of the quiet glyphs from Arianwyn. Can people have too much power? When is enough power enough? What can too much power do to people?</p>



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27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does the title of this chapter mean? How might it show what is to come? What does it mean to be 'in a predicament'? Predict how Arianwyn's idea of using snowballs will stop the maudants. 	Turn this scene into a playscript between the characters.	
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is it a surprise to see Sergeant Gribble hug his daughter? Predict how Arianwyn, Salle and Colin will get a message out of Lull. Why hadn't the mayor run out of provisions, like the other townspeople had started to? 	Write the list of duties that the day had in store for Arianwyn and Mayor Belcher.	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why Arianwyn thinks that her dad is so out of sorts. Why does Arianwyn choose to return to the Spellorium after her argument with her father rather than go to the Blue Ox? Why does the author choose for the characters not to say anything on page 258 when comforting Arianwyn? Predict what the plan might be that Salle is thinking of. 	<p>Write the answers that Mayor Belcher said to the townspeople to answer their questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are we going to run out of food? When will the shops open again? What happens if those giant jellyfish creatures come back? 	HISTORY • Research what a curfew is and occasions when, throughout history, leaders have had to use curfews in their towns and cities. Is it the best way to manage this situation?
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the curfew bringing down morale in the town? Why is Salle shocked to see the atmosphere in the centre of the town? 	Write a setting description based on what the centre of town is like with the carnival atmosphere.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are the words of the song important to be heard as the last few remaining words of the chapter? 		
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did Bob sneeze in agreement? What does 'iridescent' mean? How does Arianwyn know that the moon hare has understood her? Explain what a mewling sound sounds like. Can you act it out? Why did it feel like a small part of Arianwyn had disappeared after Bob went off with the other moon hare? 	Write the chapter from the point of view of Bob.	
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how the events with Arianwyn and Bob, her grandmother, Gimma and her father have changed her. What is an abduction? What impression do you get of PC Walters? What does the phrase 'the weight of the words settled on her' mean? 	Write a summary of the story so far.	ENGLISH • Create an emotion graph for Arianwyn in the story so far, detailing her emotions with each of the characters of Bob, her grandmother, Gimma and her father.
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it mean when it says the hex had 'ravaged' the trees? Why does Arianwyn finish her friend's sentence? What does this show about her and about their relationship? Why is the description of the building in the town square (page 288) as '<i>a giant, menacing and threatening</i>' effective? Why is Arianwyn resigned to doing nothing when trying to get her grandmother back from the High Elder? 	Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of the High Elder. Describe her thoughts, feelings and emotions in detail, especially when she is talking about power.	DRAMA/DANCE • Re-enact the expression that is etched on Grandmother's face: ' <i>a mask of fear and worry</i> '. Compare this to her usual expression. How is it different?



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34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it mean when Sergeant Gribble explains to Arianwyn that he is not going to give her a 'lecture'? Why is it a big thing for Arianwyn's father to admit he is frightened? What is he frightened of? How is Arianwyn similar to her grandmother? Give at least three examples from the text. 	Write a diary entry from the perspective of Arianwyn's father about what he is frightened of.	P4C • <i>'Fear is with us all at some time or other. It's nothing to be ashamed of.'</i> Work with your class to discuss their feelings around fear. Talk more about what you can do to overcome fear and how best to manage your emotions.
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predict what the title of this chapter means. Do you think Arianwyn and the High Elder could have worked together? Would their partnership have been successful? Explain your thinking, using the text to support your thinking. How does the intention of the spell change in the hands of Estar rather than the High Elder? 	Summarize the events of this chapter in fewer than thirty words.	
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does James Nicol create a sense of fast-paced chaos within this first paragraph? List some of the words and phrases he uses. Why does the author choose to include the phrase 'arms linked' to describe Arianwyn and Miss Delafield? What does it show about them and their relationship? Where has Miss Delafield been recalled from? Every witch in the kingdom is in the C.W.A. Estimate how many this would be and why. Why is Colin hesitating to search for the correct word? Predict what the 	<p>Write a thank-you note to Arianwyn from the perspective of Gimma.</p> <p>Write a thank you-note to Gimma from the perspective of Arianwyn.</p> <p>How are they similar? How are they different?</p>	<p>ART/DT • The witches are described as having identical navy uniforms. Can you create a unique witch's uniform for Arianwyn? What kind of colour would she wear? Show her personality through her choice of clothes.</p> <p>P4C • <i>'... deciding it was better to</i></p>



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	<p>correct word could be on page 316.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define 'treachery'. Predict what Arianwyn might be up to now if she hadn't been born a witch. Why does Arianwyn blush when the others are talking about her? 		<p><i>look forward than to dwell on the past.</i>' (page 319) Do you think it is better to look forward to the future or look back to the past? Explain your thinking using examples to support your opinion.</p>
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does the chatter fall to a hush when Arianwyn and Miss Delafield approach them? Why might Director Coot's hand feel sweaty to touch for Arianwyn? What does it mean to accept something 'willingly' (page 324)? Act this out with a friend. List at least two reasons why the Council of Elders wishes to appoint Arianwyn. Why do some witches look happy for Arianwyn whilst others look uncertain? '... <i>standing like a sentry</i>.' Explain the meaning of this simile phrase. Read to the end of page 327. Predict what happens next. 	<p>Think back to the first book, <i>The Apprentice Witch</i>. Write a paragraph to compare and contrast the different badges that Arianwyn received upon her evaluation, and now her appointment to the Council of Elders.</p> <p>Write a newspaper report about how this chapter ends with Arianwyn's decision about the Council of Elders.</p>	
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a 'secret ballot'? Why does Miss Newam look different? What does this show about the evolution of her character? What does it mean to be 'brandishing' something? Mimic this action to 	<p>Using the Spirit Creature Glossary at the back of the book, pick one of the spirits and create a fact file in your own words and your own</p>	<p>ART/DT • James Nicol includes a lot of description about the setting within this chapter. Draw what you can visualize.</p>



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

show your thinking.

- How has the relationship between Mayor Belcher and Miss Newam changed for the better? List at least two examples.
- Summarize Mayor Belcher's character now in three words.
- Why had Arianwyn stopped missing her father 'in an odd way'? Explain what this means.
- Look at the last line of the book in more detail. How has each of the characters developed throughout the trilogy, in character and personality?
- Did you like the ending? Why, or why not?
- Which character in the story was your favourite? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner. Do they agree with you?
- Now that you have read the books, try creating a timeline of the main events. Can you re-tell the story to a partner?

Writing Opportunities

illustrations.

Think back through the events of all three books. Write an autobiography, retelling Arianwyn Gribble's life on a side of A4. What would the title of it be?

The author has chosen to end this trilogy here, for now. Do you think this is the right point to leave behind the story of Arianwyn? Write a prediction about what she might get up to after we leave her here.

The trilogy has concluded. Write an opening paragraph, in your own words, to a fourth book in the series if there would be one.

Cross Curricular Opportunities

After reading:

Create your own magical handbooks using words and phrases from the book.

Consider how the trilogy is similar to other stories that you know.

Explore other forms of literature written about witches and magic.

Ask children to share which themes they feel are most important in the story and why.

Find out more about the author, contact him via Twitter @JamesENicol, visit his website and write letters to him to tell him about your thoughts on the book.

Write your own magic-inspired poems and stories.

