

2023-2024 HT International Speech Festival Pieces  
2023-2024 珩天文化國際英語朗誦節選材

Prose Reading (Born in 2008-2009)  
散文朗讀 (2008-2009年出生組別)

## The Witches

*by Roald Dahl*

It is always a shock to discover that you are being watched when you think you are alone.

And what was this strange woman doing in our garden anyway?

I noticed that she was wearing a small black hat and she had black gloves on her hands and the gloves came nearly up to her elbows.

Gloves! She was wearing gloves! I froze all over.

“I have a present for you,” she said, still staring at me, still smiling, still showing her teeth and gums. I didn't answer.

“Come down out of that tree, little boy,” she said,

“and I shall give you the most exciting present you've ever had.”

Her voice had a curious rasping quality. It made a sort of metallic sound, as though her throat was full of drawing-pins.

Without taking her eyes from my face, she very slowly put one of those gloved hands into her purse and drew out a small green snake. She held it up for me to see.

The snake began to coil itself around her fore-arm. It was brilliant green.

“If you come down here, I shall give him to you,” she said.

Oh Grand-mamma, I thought, come and help me!

Then I panicked. I dropped the hammer and shot up that enormous tree like a monkey.

I didn't stop until I was as high as I could possibly go,

and there I stayed, quivering with fear.