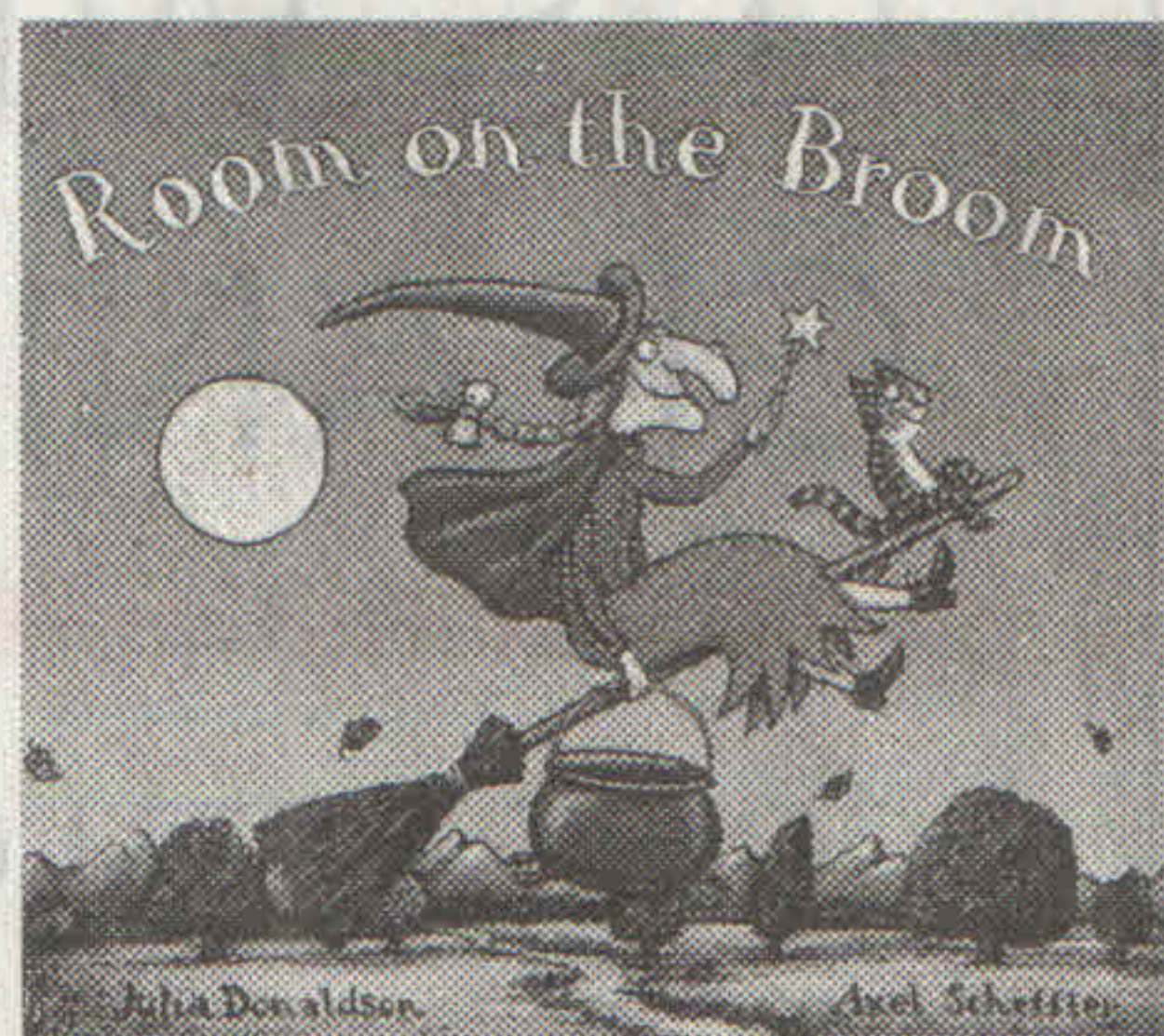




The Village School's Children's Book of the Month



'Room on the Broom'
By Julia Donaldson



Reviewed by
Lynn Anair,
After School
Program Director

On the heels of "The Gruffalo," featured in the May book review, "Room on the Broom" is another read-aloud favorite by author Julia Donaldson.

"Room on the Broom" has a lovely lyrical tone for a read-aloud. The story begins with a kindly witch and her cat flying on their broomstick when a gust of wind removes the witch's hat. She orders the broom to land and look for her missing hat. The pair cannot find it, though a dog does and returns the hat to the witch. The dog asks if there is room on the broom and the witch agrees — and off they fly.

Another gust of wind comes along and the witch loses the bow that ties her hair braid. Again, the broom is ordered down and the group looks for the missing bow. Another animal helps out and asks for a ride.

More animals help and hitch a ride on the broom.

Suddenly the broomstick breaks and the animals fall off and get lost while the witch flies on into a big cloud, the smoke and steam of a dragon who wishes to eat the witch! The animals figure out a way to rescue the witch.

The witch then makes a new brew in her cauldron, to make a great broom that can hold everyone.

I love this story with its affirmative tone of welcoming others, creative thinking and teamwork. The illustrations are colorful and fun, with expressive faces on the witch and animals alike.

The illustrations start with a brighter background and get darker — showing the storm and then nighttime. Sweet little details stand out, like the witch's boots and jewelry; flora and fauna. The emotional expressions on the animals really are the best. Even the wildlife in the background have great expressive faces.

This book is great for reading aloud to 3- to 7-year-olds, though I have seen 6th graders reading it to themselves in the After School Program.