

# A Scary Substitute

## - Readers Theatre -

It's a catastrophe! Everybody's favorite teacher at Sunnyside Park School, Miss Merriweather, is being replaced by the scariest substitute teacher of them all: Miss Spidermincer. Word around town is that she's a witch! Will the students survive her class?

### Characters:

Norma: 9 year old girl

Diego: 9 year old boy

Paul: 8 year old boy

Mrs. Stuffy: Principal

Miss Spidermincer: substitute teacher

Miss Merriweather: teacher

**Narrator:** Everybody had heard the terrible news. Miss Merriweather was at school one day, and gone the next. She disappeared! Vanished into thin air. But the worse part was that she was being replaced by none other than Miss Spidermincer...

*Norma, Diego and Paul are standing in the courtyard of the school, talking.*

**Norma:** I heard she's a real witch and her house is full of toad warts, bat whiskers and rotten cow eyeballs!

**Diego:** I heard she kidnaps little kids. Then she fries them and gobbles them up for breakfast!

**Paul:** I heard she has a two-headed pet tarantula as big as an elephant!

*Mrs. Stuffy overhears the conversation and steps in.*

**Mrs. Stuffy:** Now, now children. Let's not *gossip*. Gossiping never leads to anything good!

**Norma:** But Mrs. Stuffy, I heard-



Mrs. Stuffy: I'm warning you children, behave! Or it's detention for the lot of you!

Narrator: With that, Mrs. Stuffy thumped away. The bell rang. The students were nervous. They were about to meet Miss Spidermincer for the very first time. Their teeth chattered as they filed into the classroom. Miss Spidermincer was waiting. Her bony fingers tapped the teacher's desk.

Miss Spidermincer: Well, well, well. What a pleasure to meet the grade 4 class! As you know, I'm replacing Miss Merriweather. How lucky you are! You get to see me every day! Now open your books to page 15. It's time to learn about the witches in Salem.



Norma: W-w-witches?

Miss Spidermincer: Yes dear, witches. You know what those are, don't you?

Narrator: Norma gulped. Miss Spidermincer was wearing black. And now she was making them learn about witches. Could it be true?

Diego: *(Whispering.)* She sure looks strange!

Norma: *(Whispering.)* Yeah, maybe she really *is* a witch.

Paul: *(Whispering.)* What are we gonna do?

Narrator: But there was nothing anyone could do. The students learned about witches for the rest of the day.

Miss Spidermincer: See you tomorrow, class! And the day after that, and the day after that...

*Norma, Diego and Paul are walking home from school.*

Diego: So do you guys think she's a real witch?

Norma: Today she wore all black. She made us learn about the witches in Salem. Sounds suspicious to me.



Narrator: Over the next few weeks, the students noticed other odd things about Miss Spidermincer. For example, she owned three black cats. She always had a broomstick in class. And, she really did have a pet tarantula!

*Norma, Diego and Paul are whispering as class is about to begin Monday morning.*

Diego: We need to find out if it's true!

Norma: Okay. During recess, we'll make a plan.

Narrator: The bell was about to ring. All of a sudden, the classroom door opened. In walked Mrs. Stuffy. And you'll never believe who was beside her. Miss Merriweather! How could this be?



Mrs. Stuffy: Students, I would like you to give Miss Merriweather a warm welcome back!

Diego: Wait a minute, you're back? Didn't you disappear?

Miss Merriweather: Disappear? (*Laughs.*) I didn't disappear! My sister gave birth to her baby a few weeks early so I had to leave quickly. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to say good-bye. But I knew I would be back soon. After all, it was only a couple of weeks. Now class, I want you to thank Miss Spidermincer for all her hard work. Wasn't she a terrific teacher?

Paul: Well, yes but we...we were wondering...

Miss Merriweather: What is it you were wondering?

*Normal found her courage.*

Norma: Miss Spidermincer, are you a real witch?

Miss Spidermincer:

*(Laughs.)* Goodness me! Of course not! Whatever gave you that silly idea?

Diego:

What about the black clothes, the black cat, the broomstick, the tarantula-

Miss Spidermincer:

I can explain all that! I happen to love the colour black. I also love cats. In fact, I rescue them from the pound. I always carry a broomstick because I like to keep things clean. And as for my pet tarantula, it belongs to my son.

Paul:

Oh. But what about the rumours that-

Mrs. Stuffy:

Now what did I tell you children about rumours? You are old enough to know better. Miss Spidermincer is a terrific teacher and you were lucky to have her. Miss Spidermincer, I'm so sorry about this. Sometimes these students get carried away with their imagination!

Miss Spidermincer:

It's no problem. I had a fun few weeks and I would love to return.

Narrator:

The class thanked Miss Spidermincer and waved her good-bye. Some of the students felt silly for believing she was a witch. Norma, Diego and Paul agreed they would never believe rumours again. That day, they learned it was never a good idea to judge a book by its cover.

**The End.**



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