

## Chapter 2

Still gently holding onto Amber, Mr Crumb led her out of the school gates, keeping a safe distance behind the witches. The witches all turned right out of the gates, so he and Amber turned left in the opposite direction.

"I suppose you're wondering what's going on," he said to Amber when they were safely out of the witches' hearing. Amber nodded; she was still too frightened to speak! "We're both invisible," he told her. "They couldn't see either of us!"

"B - b - but how?" was all Amber managed to stammer.

"I'll explain as we walk back to your grandad's," said

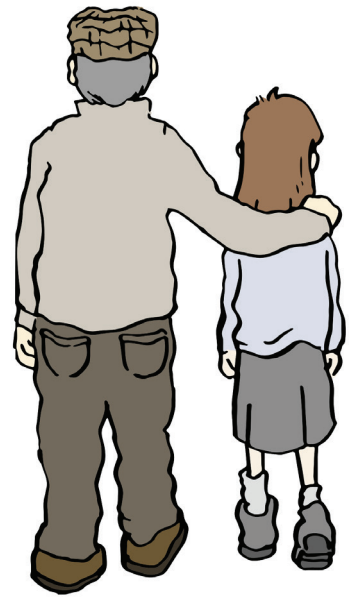
Mr Crumb, "but first it's probably best if we reappear while no one is looking. We don't want to give anyone a fright!" He took her hand and they walked a few steps in silence. "We're visible again," he said after a while and let go of her hand.

Mr Crumb then went on to explain everything he could to the dumbfounded girl. He told her that he had once been a magician himself, a wizard in fact, but he had been forced into early retirement some years back due to some disgrace of which he had been a part. He didn't go into details, but he told the girl that it had been something to do with breaking the witchcraft code of conduct. He had been banned from using witchcraft for the rest of his life and so, for the last twenty years, he had lived an ordinary existence as a school caretaker. "I guess we're both the same in a way," he said, "not being able to follow our calling. But it's our duty to do something to stop that evil woman."

He told Amber that he had realised that something incredibly serious was going on at St Augustine's, but he didn't know how to deal with it. His own powers had been considerably reduced since his banishment from the Order of Witches and Wizards (though he still was able to do some simple magic like making himself invisible). Also, because he had been banned from making contact with anyone from the witchcraft fraternity he didn't know who to tell. "No one would believe me anyway," he told Amber. "They don't trust me anymore. But don't worry, I was keeping me eye on that Miss Vile and I would have done all I could to stop her from hurting you children." They strolled on in silence for a few minutes. "Now I've told you my secrets I think you better tell me everything you know," he said, breaking the silence.

Amber told him what she had overheard in the school hall earlier that evening. She told him about Miss Vile's plan to poison the soup and take the unconscious children into the school cellars. She told him how she had recorded everything on her mobile, but how that was now in the hands of Miss Vile. "I've lost my evidence," she said despondently.

"Don't worry. I think I know how to make them listen," he said, and they quickened their pace as they headed back to tell Amber's grandad.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# I can use reported speech.

Reported speech is when you report back what someone has said. You don't need inverted commas for reported speech. But you do need to change the pronouns. And you usually have to change the tense of the reported speech.

<u>Direct speech</u>	" <u>We</u> <b>are</b> both invisible," Mr Crumb told Amber.	<b>Present simple</b>
<u>Reported speech</u>	Mr Crumb told Amber that <u>they</u> <b>were</b> both invisible.	<b>Past simple</b>
<u>Direct speech</u>	" <u>You</u> <b>are wondering</b> what is going on," he said.	<b>Present progressive</b>
<u>Reported speech</u>	He said that <u>she</u> <b>was wondering</b> what was going on.	<b>Past progressive</b>
<u>Direct speech</u>	" <u>I</u> <b>will explain</b> as we walk back," he said.	<b>Future simple</b>
<u>Reported speech</u>	He said that <u>he</u> <b>would explain</b> as they walked back.	<b>Conditional simple</b>
<u>Direct Speech</u>	" <u>I</u> <b>have lost</b> my evidence," she told him.	<b>Present perfect</b>
<u>Reported Speech</u>	She told him that <u>she</u> <b>had lost</b> her evidence.	<b>Past perfect</b>

Amber and Mr Crumb told Grandad everything they knew about the witches and what Miss Vile planned to do at St Augustine's.

Change the direct speech to reported speech. (The verbs in bold will need their tenses changing. The pronouns in italics will also need to be changed.)

- 1 "A **coven of witches** has taken over the school," they told Grandad.  
They told Grandad that .....
- 2 "The witches **are going** to put a sleeping potion in *our* school lunches," Amber told him.  
Amber told him that .....
- 3 "**I know** this **is** hard to believe," said Mr Crumb.  
Mr Crumb said that .....
- 4 "We **have** to do something to stop her," Amber said.  
Amber said that .....
- 5 "We **will need** help if we **are** to beat her," said Mr Crumb.  
Mr Crumb said that .....
- 6 "We **will contact** Mr Broom," said Grandad.  
Grandad said that .....

**Extension** Find any other direct speech from the passage and change to reported speech.





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<u>Direct speech</u>	" <b>You are wondering</b> what is going on," he said.	<b>Present progressive</b>
<u>Reported speech</u>	He said that <u>she was wondering</u> what was going on.	<b>Past progressive</b>
<u>Direct speech</u>	" <b>I will explain</b> as we walk back," he said.	<b>Future simple</b>
<u>Reported speech</u>	He said that <u>he would explain</u> as they walked back.	<b>Conditional simple</b>
<u>Direct Speech</u>	" <b>I have lost</b> my evidence," she told him.	<b>Present perfect</b>
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Change the direct speech to reported speech. (The verbs in bold will need their tenses changing. Don't forget to change the necessary pronouns either!)

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Amber and Mr Crumb told Grandad everything they knew about the witches and what Miss Vile planned to do at St Augustine's.

Change the direct speech to reported speech. (Don't forget the verbs will need their tenses changing. Most of the pronouns will also need to be changed.)

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