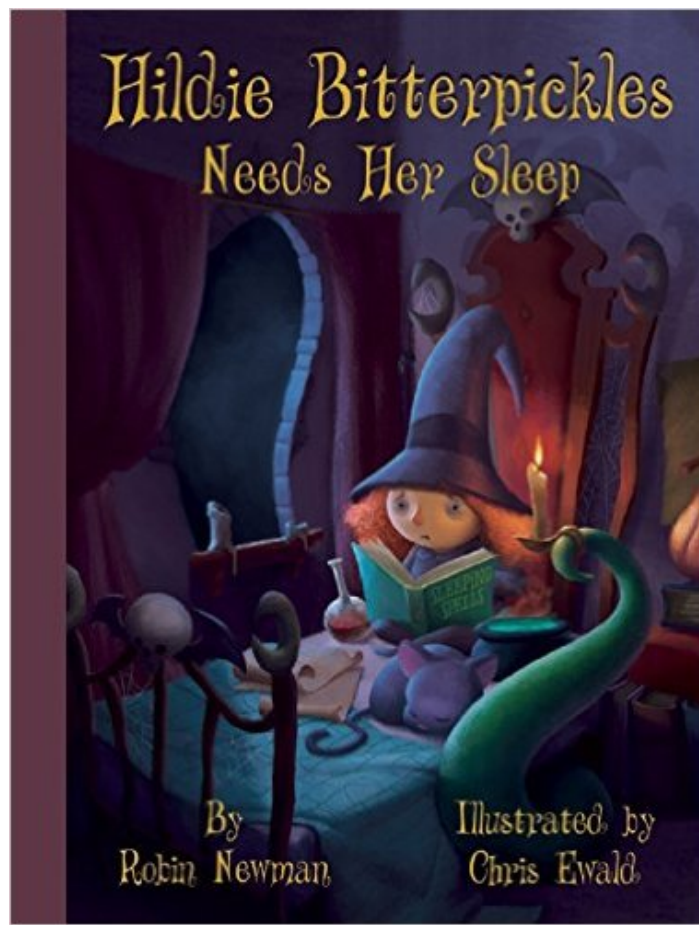


# Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep

A teacher's guide created by Marcie Colleen  
based upon the picture book  
written by Robin Newman and illustrated by Chris Ewald



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Robin Newman was a practicing attorney and legal editor, but she now prefers to write about witches, mice, pigs, and peacocks. Her previous book with Creston, *A Wilcox and Griswold Mystery: The Case of the Missing Carrot Cake* earned a starred review from Kirkus and was selected a best middle-grade book of 2015. She lives in New York, among many noisy neighbors. Visit her at [www.robinnewmanbooks.com](http://www.robinnewmanbooks.com).



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**Illustrator, *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep***

Chris Ewald studied art at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. He works on art for videogames and animation. *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* is his first picture book. He lives in Austin, Texas. Visit him online at <https://chrisewald.carbonmade.com>.

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## **How to Use This Guide**

This classroom guide for *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* is designed for students in kindergarten through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* into their curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with relevant content standards in English Language Arts.

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## Reading Comprehension

Before reading *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep*:

Help students identify the basic parts of a picture book: front cover, back cover, spine, and end papers. (Note: Most picture books include a title page, as well. For design purposes, this book does not have a title page.)

The Front Cover ~

- Describe what you see. Who do you think the main character is? What is the character doing?
- Stand up and pretend to be the main character in the illustration. Pay close attention to the facial expression and body shape of the character. How do you think this character feels? How does this pose make you feel?
- Do you see any other characters on the front cover? Who do you think they are?
- Can you predict what the story might be about based on the cover illustration?

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book was about.

- What does Hildie do every night to get ready for bed?
- Why does her neighborhood change?
- Why can't Hildie sleep once the Giant moves in next door?
  - How does Hildie solve the problem?
- What's the problem when the Old Woman in the shoe moves in?
- What mistake does the Wolf make?
  - How does Hildie react?
- What advertisement does Hildie find in *The Daily Witch*?
  - What does Hildie tell Monty she wants?
- Describe the problem with the Three Blind Mice.
- Describe the problem with the BAA BAA Black Sheep.
- What is so familiar about the third house that Monty sends Hildie to?
- Why does Hildie decide to talk to the neighbors?
  - What does the Giant say when Hildie explains the problem with the elevator? How does Hildie help the Giant?
  - What does the Old Woman say when Hildie tells her that the children are keeping her awake? How does Hildie help the children?
  - What does Hildie ask Wolf to do?



- What does Hildie hear when she finally goes to bed?
- Why was it better to talk to the neighbors than get angry and try to move?

Let's talk about the people who made *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep*.

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

Now, let's look closely at the illustrations.

- Check out some of the following "visual story-telling" details that Chris Ewald includes. Can you find:
  - A cow sleeping on the moon
  - Two flamingos
  - A broken crystal ball
  - A slice of pizza in a filing cabinet
  - A smiling dish and a spoon
  - Humpty Dumpty
  - Little Boy Blue blowing his horn
  - Little Bo Peep
  - Jack of "Jack Be Nimble" fame and a burned out candlestick
  - Little Red Riding Hood
  - Little Miss Muffet



### Who Is Hildie? ~ Character Study

How a character acts and what a character says can tell us a lot about who they are.

Read *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* paying close attention to the character of Hildie. Scene by scene, record your thoughts, as in the chart below.

What Hildie does	What Hildie says	How would you describe Hildie?
<i>Example: goes to bed but hears noise next door</i>	<i>"I can't sleep with this racket!"</i>	<i>Agitated, annoyed</i>

After gathering information regarding Hildie’s character, write a new scene for *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep*. What would Hildie do and what would Hildie say in one of the following situations?

- Hildie tries to take a nap at school during naptime.
- Hildie has a cold and her cough is keeping her neighbors awake.
- Hildie has to go to school after not getting any sleep.

### The Parts of a Fairy Tale: Fairy Tales as Mentor Texts

Fairy tales can be excellent mentor texts for good storytelling. Often they include vibrant characters, clear plot arcs, and compelling conflicts. Likewise, a fractured fairy tale is a humorous story that uses elements of well-known fairy tales, such as characters, setting, plot, and/or point of view, and adds a twist to create a new story. *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* is a fractured fairy tale that incorporates many familiar characters from fairy tales and provides a fairy tale-like plotline.

Plot: Fairy tales tend to have a very simple plotline with one central conflict. Help students define the plot arc within *Hildie Bitterpickles Needs Her Sleep* and other fairy tales.



Beginning	Middle	End
Once upon a time....	First	They lived happily ever after.
	Then	
Enter conflict:	Next	
	After that	
	Finally	

Using this basic structure of a fairy tale, create an original fairy tale. Students can work either individually or as a class.

Options:

- Create original fairy tales using a well-known fairy tale character or characters in a brand new adventure.
- Create an original fairy tale about a character you make up interacting with a well-known fairy tale character or characters.
- Retell a well-known fairy tale, but create a different ending.



Extensions:

Art center ~ Provide a variety of art materials including crayons, pencils, markers, paints, scissors, colored paper, old magazines, and glue for students to illustrate the scenes in their stories.

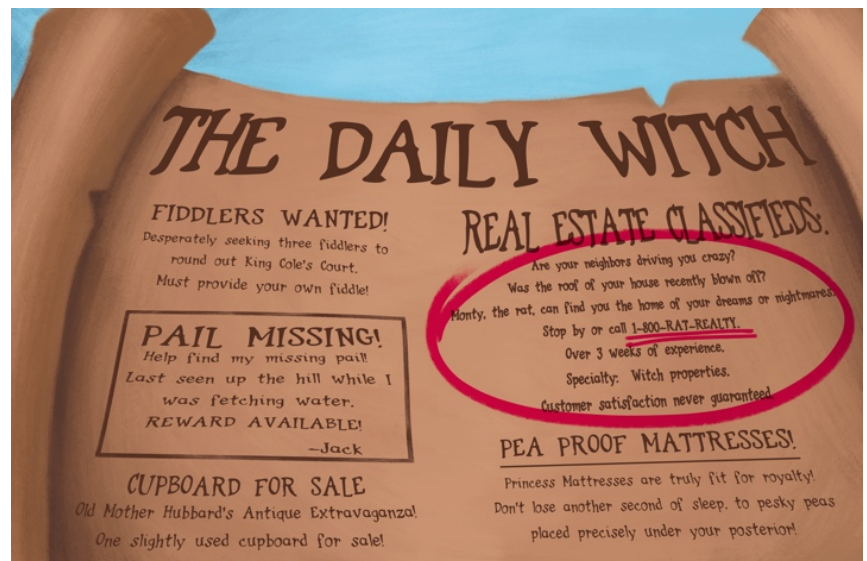
Drama center ~ Provide puppets, costumes, and props so students can recreate their new fairy tales.

### ***The Daily Witch Classifieds***

When Hildie needs help finding a new house, she looks at the classified ads in *The Daily Witch*.

The classified ads of a newspaper list items that are wanted, for sale, and for rent.

Read through the classifieds of *The Daily Witch*, then create your own ad based on a fairytale or nursery rhyme.



Examples:

- The King's Horsemen Fix-It Service. Specializing in eggshell reconstruction.
- MISSING: Spoon. Last seen with Dish.
- WANTED: Greener grass for three billy goats.

## Problem Solving: Avoidance vs. Confrontation

Hildie has a problem. She needs her sleep and her neighbors are anything but quiet. Hildie needs to solve her problem.

Look closely at each problem Hildie encounters.

- Giant's noisy elevator.
- Children playing baseball.
- Wolf blowing roof off of her house.
- Three Blind Mice tinkering all night long.
- Twenty BAA BAA-ing Sheep.

Hildie first uses avoidance regarding the problems.

- What does avoidance mean?
  - First, brainstorm what avoidance might mean based on the context of Hildie's story. (i.e., "Instead of confronting the Wolf when he blew down her roof, Hildie avoided the problem by moving to another house.")
  - Then, look the word up together in the dictionary.
  - Avoidance is walking or running away from the problem. Not fixing it.
- How does Hildie avoid the problem in each situation?
- Does avoiding solve her problem?

Hildie then decides to try confrontation.

- What does confrontation mean?
  - First, brainstorm what confrontation might mean based on the context of Hildie's story. (i.e., "Hildie confronted the giant regarding the noisy elevator and he fixed it.")
  - Then, look the word up together in the dictionary.
  - Confrontation is taking steps to solve the problem, taking action.
- How does Hildie confront the problem in each situation?
- Does confronting solve Hildie's problem?
- What do you think would have happened if Hildie confronted the problem by yelling and throwing a tantrum?



For information on Healthy Confrontation visit

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/emotional-wellness/Pages/Everybody-Gets-Mad-Helping-Your-Child-Cope-with-Conflict.aspx>

Which worked better for Hildie, avoidance or confrontation? Why do you think?

When would it *not* be preferable for Hildie to confront the problem? (i.e., when it's dangerous, etc.)

Create a list of possible problems you might face:

- at school
- at home
- with friends

For example, someone took the pair of scissors you were using for an art project without asking first.

- Write or act out a scene in which you avoid the problem.
- Write or act out a scene in which you confront the problem.
- Which works better in this situation?
- When would it be best to avoid the situation.



## COLOR AND CUT OUT HILDIE BITTERPICKLES!

Color and decorate Hildie Bitterpickles!  
When you are done, cut her out and make  
your very own Hildie Bitterpickles paper doll!



USE YOUR MAGIC TO HELP HILDIE FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS!



HIDDEN WORD KEY:

BEANSTALK, CHILDREN, CLAUDIA, GIANT, HILDIE  
HOUSE, HUMPTY, NOISE, PIGS, POTION  
RAT, SHEEP, SHOE, SLEEP, SPELLS, WOLF