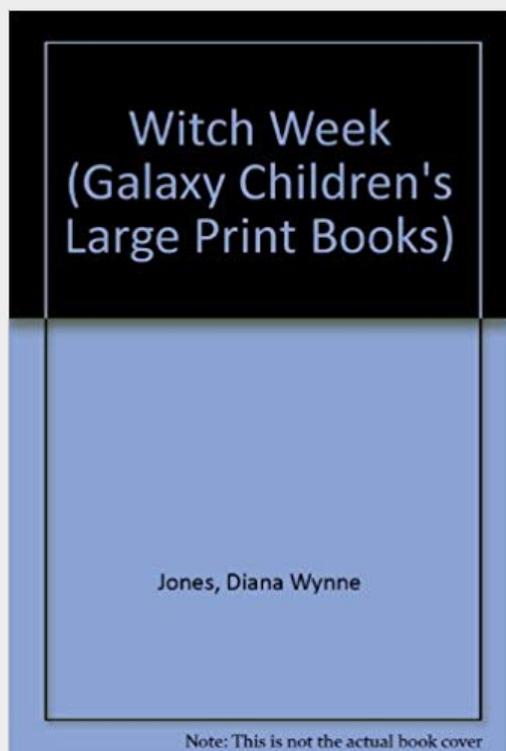


## Witch Week (Galaxy Children's Large Print) by Diana Wynne Jones



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**Author:** Diana Wynne Jones

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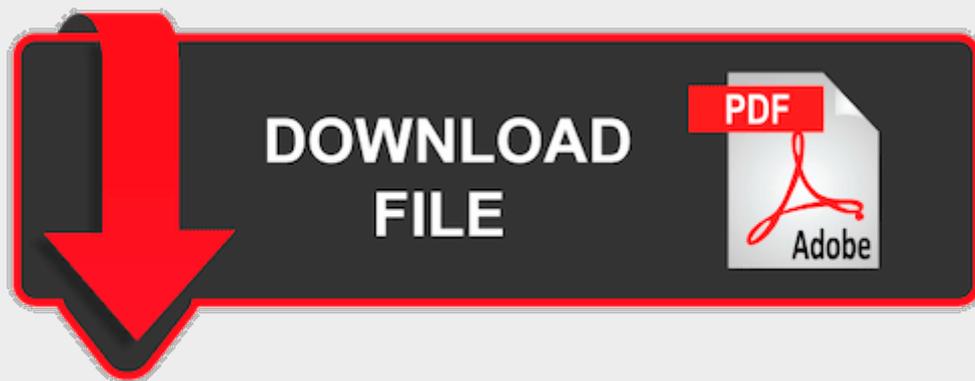
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When an anonymous note claims someone in the class is a witch, everyone is eager to prove it is someone else, and Chrestomanci arrives just in time to prevent disaster.



## Reviews of the Witch Week (Galaxy Children's Large Print) by Diana Wynne Jones

### 1. Geny

I read this series with my daughter and BOTH of us absolutely LOVE it!

Just finished this book, will be purchasing the next one shortly! Highly recommend for kids 8-11. Read it with them. You won't be disappointed! Great job to the author. She makes the books pop right out in your mind, like you're seeing and experiencing right along with the characters.

## 2. Jozrone

This is the greatest I've read so far of her books! Larwood House, witches, and a hidden note nestled in a geography book changes everything! You have got to read this book. Seriously! I'm off to the next! See you soon, Reader!

## 3. FireWater

I love this book by Diana Wynn Jones, it's one of the funniest books I have ever read. The picture of the boys on an old mop and hoe bunnyhopping through a field because they couldn't find brooms to fly on is just one of the hilarious parts of this book. Highly Recommended.

## 4. Freaky Hook

This book is not the best Diana Wynne Jones has written. I enjoyed the middle of it as it picked up pace, but there are too many characters in the book that are names only. The beginning seemed a little repetitious and the ending done in haste. I admire her ability to create characters that jump out of a book after a few sentences, so when they do not appear, I'm a little disappointed.

#### 5. Sharpbringer

This is one of my favorite Diana Wynne Jones books out of many wonderful stories.

#### 6. Stick

I got this book very quickly and it's in great condition. The set was recommended to me and I'm very excited to have finally completed it.

#### 7. LONUDOG

I first heard this book as a play on the radio and thought it would be a good read for my granddaughter  
She thought it was brilliant.

8. So says the note that Mr Crossley finds hidden between the exercise books in class 2Y. In any other world, this would be seen as a harmless joke, but at Larwood House for witch orphans, in a world run by Inquisitors and where witch-burnings still take place, such things are taken deadly seriously. Who is the witch? Chubby Nan Pilgrim, named after the most famous Arch-Witch? Sullen Charles Morgan, who holds a sympathetic view toward witches? Or weird Brian Wentworth, who

behaviour gets stranger by the day?

Then the anonymous witch starts having some fun - a flock of exotic birds in music class, a removal of all the shoes in the school. The hunt is on among students and teachers to find the culprit, with the threat of the merciless Inquisitors visiting the school at the back of all their minds. But as the mystery deepens, several of the students seem to find that they themselves have magical powers, and that any one of them could be arrested for witchcraft and burnt at the stake. They'll need some expert help...

"Witch Week" is part of the Chrestomanci quartet, though unlike "Charmed Life" and "The Lives of Christopher Chant", Chrestomanci is not a main character, and in fact does not appear until over halfway through the book. In this way, it is more like "The Magicians of Caprona", where Chrestomanci appears as a powerful, helpful figure to sort out the problem at hand (with a little help from the children, of course).

Diana Wynne Jones is almost *\*too\** good at creating the atmosphere and feeling of boarding school for these young people, where even the misfits are at odds with each other rather than banding together to oppose the Therasas and Simons of the school. Each student is a little gem of character study, whether it be the perfect Theresa and her 'new crazes' (in this case, it's knitting), Charles and the complicated code he makes in order to demonstrate how much he hates the school, or Brian's complete and utter selfishness.

Likewise, are Wynne Jones's humorous moments of vivid human life - such as Theresa's friends escorting her to detention, but abruptly abandoning her when the teacher invites them to join her, or Nan wishing she was dead, then realising that with the Inquisitors coming she may very well end up dead...and immediately realising that she *\*doesn't\** want to be dead. Make no mistake, these students are thoroughly miserable, and Larwood House is a long way from Hogwarts.

And I mention Hogwarts, since Diana Wynne Jones's novels are undoubtedly the most influential books in the creation of J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, especially "Witch Week" in its use of a boarding school with magical pupils. If you consider yourself a loyal follower of "Harry Potter", then this book should be read - Rowling's books have more intricate mysteries, but Wynne Jones is right up there with Rowling in terms of clever twists - an example here, is how a foolish spell ends up being vital in the saving of the world. Furthermore, Rowling tends to be more sentimental, and Wynne Jones has not an ounce of this in her books - they are (despite the magical workings) realistic to the core, and written in Wynne Jones's droll, almost sarcastic narrative.

So not every fan of "Harry Potter" might necessarily enjoy these books, but for those trying to extend their reading, look into the literary history of Potter, are fans of Diana Wynne Jones, or just want a funny, sinister and clever read, look no further than "Witch Week". However, I do suggest reading either "Charmed Life" or "The Lives of Christopher Chant" beforehand - it'll give you a clearer idea of who Chrestomanci is and what he does.

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