

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Widow's Broom

**Directions:** Read Chris Van Allsburg's sentences below from *The Widow's Broom*. Use the context clues from the sentences to write a definition for each of the underlined words.

1. Out of a moonlit sky a dark cloaked figure came spinning to the ground. The witch, along with her tired broom, landed beside a small farmhouse...

Cloaked: A piece of clothing that hides your body.

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2. Minna Shaw was asleep in a chair by the fireplace, where embers of a dying fire glowed on the hearth. The witch knelt and took one of the red hot coals in her hand.

Embers: A burning coal.

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3. Soon the broom could chop wood and fetch water, feed the chickens, and bring the cows in from the pasture.

Pasture: A piece of land for the cows.

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**4. Occasionally, when there was nothing left to do around the widow's house, it would hop down to the road that separated Minna Shaw;s and the Spiveys' farm. The road was dirt, of course, and the broom could amuse itself there for hours.**

Amuse:\_\_\_**To find enjoyment.**

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**5. The broom hopped off, but the Spivey dog ran after it, yapping and biting at its bristles.**

Bristles:\_\_\_**The hair part of the broom.**

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**6. "It sleeps in here," she whispered pointing to the closet. "If you move it carefully, it will not wake up." The men knew how strong the broom was and hoped the widow was right. They opened the closet door, revealing the slumbering broom.**

Slumbering:\_\_\_**To be sleeping.**

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