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***Witch's Cat Wanted, Apply Within* by Joy H. Davidson illustrated by Nikki Slade Robinson**

Publisher: Scholastic NZ

RRP \$19.00

Winner of the Joy Cowley Award 2015, for an unpublished manuscript, this is a book that will attract the young reader.

Illustrations are colourful and expressive – this young witch in her full-length blue dress, tall black hat, and heeled boots with buckles, looks like a thoroughly modern witch, accompanied everywhere by her friendly green toad.

The language is certain to attract with its rhythm and witch's rhyme:

*"Bubbling, hissing, spitting brew,
can you tell me what to do?
I have a broom and a tall black hat,
but my spells won't work without a cat!"*

She advertises for a cat and interviews each one. Unfortunately, on hearing her job description, each is quick to opt out with humorous responses:

*"Ride on your broom?
I couldn't ride on your broom!
I would get broom-sick ..."*

The witch returns to her cauldron, and this time the advice it gives leads her to the perfect match: a cat experienced in all things witch-like and, most importantly, in need of a friend.

A read-aloud book in full colour that will delight and amuse.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

