***The Witches***

***Chapter 11***

***Metamorphosis***

***Summary:***

* Almost immediately, our narrator is spotted. He's in deep doo-doo (and he smells like it).
* After some chaos, some cries for help, and some yelling from the GHW, the witches catch him. Just like that, they have him, carry him to the platform, and force him to open his mouth.
* Before he knows it, the GHW has poured an *entire bottle* of the Mouse-Maker down his throat. This can't be good.
* Through a series of evocative similes – ones that really make you picture the images at hand – the narrator describes the feeling of transforming, instantly, into a mouse.
* Just to recap: he was a boy, and now he's a mouse.
* Hey, no problem! He actually likes the feeling of being small and quick, and it certainly helps him run away and hide from the witches.
* The GHW decides not to bother with "the little stinkpot" (12.21) – that is, our mouse-narrator – and the witches head off to their tea.
* Brief Synopsis:

The boy seeks an escape, but the door is still chained shut and there is nowhere to run. The witches find him and catch him. He runs away but only makes it to the chained door, which he cannot open. They grab him again, bring him to The Grand High Witch, and hold him aloft by his arms and legs. The Grand High Witch decides to give him some of the formula and pinches his nose until he must open his mouth. Though he holds his breath as long as possible, the boy finally opens his mouth to gasp for breath and The Grand High Witch pours the entirety of the small bottle down his throat.

The boy screams, feeling a burning spread from his chest to his stomach to his arms and legs. His skin begins to tighten and he feels himself start to shrink as though he is a balloon that someone is twisting. Then there is a squeezing and a prickling that he realizes is the feeling of growing fur. Then, as quickly as it began, the boy is a mouse; he sees his own paws and the floor just an inch away from his face. The Grand High Witch holds up a mouse trap and cheese, but the boy runs off into the room swiftly and quietly. The Grand High Witch shouts for the witches to leave him for someone else to catch and the witches unlock the doors and go off to have tea.