***The Witches***

***Chapter 9***

***Bruno Jenkins Disappears***

***Summary:***

* The chapter begins with the GHW explaining to the other witches that she will now demonstrate how her formula works.
* The day before, she had given the Mouse-Maker (in the form of chocolate) to a greedy boy in the hotel, and set the alarm clock to go off today at 3:30pm, five minutes from now. Then she told the boy to meet her in The Ballroom at 3:25pm, where she would give him even more chocolate.
* After some bustling of shoes, wigs, and gloves, in marches the boy: Bruno Jenkins.
* Our narrator recognizes him. He's seen him around the hotel, always eating and bragging about his rich dad. The two boys even had a little run-in as Bruno was trying to kill ants with a magnifying glass and the narrator heroically stopped him. Basically, the narrator isn't too concerned about Bruno being turned into a mouse.
* The GHW begins to count down. Bruno becomes more and more confused, and suddenly, he begins to transform, piece by piece... and just like that, he's a tiny mouse!
* Cue the applause from the witches. Bruno, in mouse form, runs off

Brief Synopsis:

The Grand High Witch reveals that she has set up a demonstration of Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker. The day before, she gave a chocolate bar with one drop of the formula in it to a boy named Bruno Jenkins (using an alarm clock set at half past three). She promised him six more candy bars if he showed up at the ballroom the next day at 25 minutes past three. As she planned, the witches now hear the boy pounding on the door and demanding his sweets. The witches hurry to put their wigs, gloves, and shoes back on, and The Grand High Witch puts her mask back on, becoming once again a very pretty young woman.

When one of the witches takes the chains off the door and opens it, the boy recognizes Bruno as another boy he has seen around the hotel. Bruno, the boy tells the reader, is someone who is always eating and who the boy didn't care for much because he always boasted about his father's money and was cruel to animals. The Grand High Witch summons Bruno to the stage and keeps him standing there as the last minute passes. At exactly 3:30, Bruno jumps and yells, "Ow!"(p.97) He starts to hop around, yelling and waving his arms, and then his whole body stiffens and he becomes silent.

The Grand High Witch sings out a short, rhyming poem as Bruno starts to shrink and grow fur and a tail. In just a few seconds, he is transformed into a small brown mouse. The audience cheers and the boy feels upset, thinking that he hadn't liked Bruno but he didn't want him to turn into a mouse and be killed. However, Bruno runs off the table, off the platform, and somewhere into the room where the witches can't find him.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Bruno was getting smaller by the second. I could see him shrinking...  
  
Now his clothes seemed to be disappearing and brown fur was growing all over his body...  
  
Suddenly he had a tail...  
  
And then he had whiskers...  
  
Now he had four feet. (10.26-30)

***Explanation:***

Can you imagine this? Literally, can you picture it in your head? Creepy, right? Quentin Blake, the illustrator, probably had a wonderful time drawing this, and what he came up with is worth checking out.

***Quotation 2:***

I didn't care for him. (10.13)

***Explanation:***

Shmoop loves this line. Among all the explicitly stated hatred going on in the book, our narrator is so polite and understated when expressing his feelings about Bruno Jenkins. He just doesn't care for him. Period.