

## 6 The Wicked Witch

My heart sank when I learnt where the witch lived: right in the middle of the Dark Woods, miles away from the Emerald City.

That night we walked and walked, over hills, rivers and fields and into the Dark Woods. We were so tired, but we had to go on. Deeper and deeper we went, cutting our way through the spiky branches, until, finally, we reached an iron gate. A stone castle towered over us, tall and sinister.

My heart was pounding. We were all so scared we nearly turned back. But Tinman took my hand, and Lion cautiously pushed open the gate.

I jumped with fright as cobwebs brushed my face.

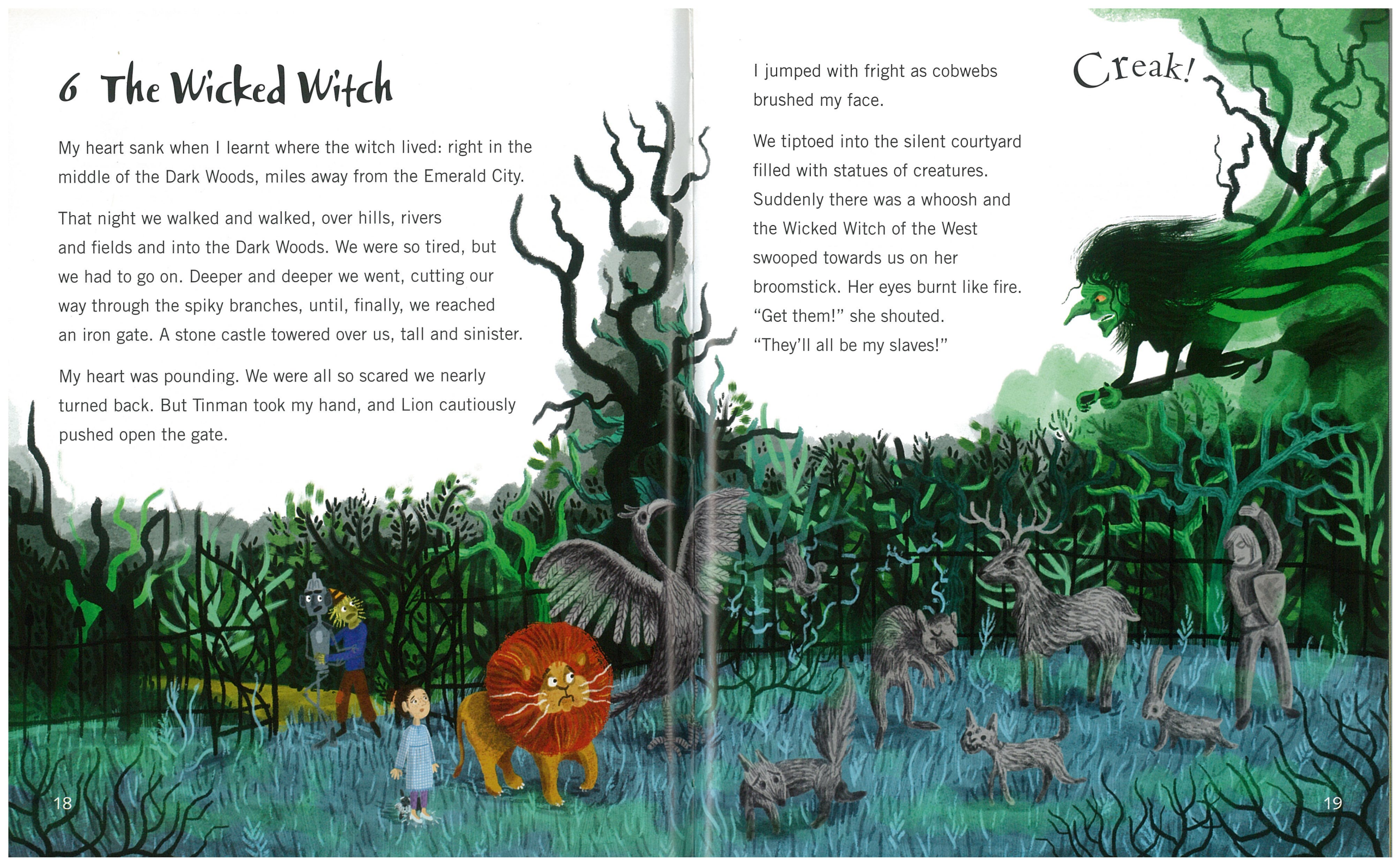
We tiptoed into the silent courtyard filled with statues of creatures.

Suddenly there was a whoosh and the Wicked Witch of the West swooped towards us on her broomstick. Her eyes burnt like fire.

“Get them!” she shouted.

“They’ll all be my slaves!”

Creak!





The witch's flying monkeys grabbed my friends with their strong arms. As the monkeys dragged them away, the witch turned her terrible eyes on me.

"Run, Dorothy!" Lion shouted bravely. "Save yourself!"

"Ahh, Dorothy!" she glared at me. "It was you who killed my sister! You'll work hardest of all." She threw a mop and bucket at me.

Brave Toto barked and ran at the witch to protect me.

"I'll turn you to stone, you horrible dog!" The witch laughed cruelly as her wand began to crackle and spark.

I looked around frantically for a weapon, for anything I could use to save Toto. The witch lifted her wand higher.

Without thinking, I grabbed the bucket of water and threw it at her as hard as I could.

"Arghhh!" she screamed. "No! Not water!"

The witch began to shrivel up. Her body shrank down until she melted away in a cloud of green smoke.

Then she was gone.

I couldn't believe it!

