

By Owen Ketcher

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The iconic story ›Room.on.the.Broom" by Julia Donaldson (Author) and Axel Scheffler (illustrator) released in 2001, and the further film adaptation by the directors Max Lang and Jan Lachauer released in 2014 are both widely liked, but a debate on which is better is ongoing. The main plot is about a witch and her cat friend flying on a broom, but the witch keeps getting her stuff blown away in a storm, and animals help her retrieve them, so she then lets them aboard the broom. In the end the broom breaks and the main antagonist, a dragon tries to eat the witch, so the animals scare it away and they make a new broom.

A major event in the book is when the broom snaps in two and the witch gets chased by a hungry dragon that tries to eat her. The novel depicts it with a dark stormy night and the dragon being mean, however, the dragon is a lot scarier and more intense in the film as it betrays it through music and sound effects, as well as a bright red spooky sky and it can make the dragon more overpowering through camera angles. Similarly, they have scary feels and are made for you to dislike the dragon, as it is evil.

The main character in this story is the witch. The witch in the novel and film wears the same clothes, (a red shirt and a purple dress) and is inclusive to the animals, however in the film the witch is always happy, laughing a lot and feels emotional toward the animals. In the novel she is happy but doesn't show that extra emotion. As the main character and protagonist, the witch has some traits that shape the story and it's moral.

The theme of this story is to include others and be friends with new people. In the novel the value is depicted through the witch letting on the animals that find her items, however it is better shown in the film adaptation because the other animals already on the broom were saying no yet the witch still insisted on letting them on. Similarly, in the movie and book the animals become friends in the end. This shows the important value of inclusion through a wonderful book and an amazing film.

Overall, I prefer the film version more. It has more feeling and emotion, that it shows by having music and sound effects, as well as a narrator reader the story to you. It also has backstory of the animals, making you have more feelings for them. Finally, the backstory of the dragon, and how it was made the villain is intriguing, and makes it more intense, therefor, making it my favourite version of 'Room.on.the.Broom;"