

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Setting**



## Witch Hill

Kayla had spent her entire life in California, where each day was much the same as the next. Then she and her family moved to Witch Hill, a small, quiet, peaceful town in the northeast. They arrived in the spring. Kayla found her new hometown to be much like the town that she had left. The sky was blue and clear. The grass was green. Flowers bloomed in the town square and in the resident’s front gardens. It was easy to get comfortable, and Kayla soon felt right at home.

But as the days grew cooler and the leaves began to fall from the trees, the town changed. The once well-kept and colorful houses seemed dim and dilapidated in the fading light. The once bright streets became full of looming shadows that made Kayla’s heart quiver in her chest on her way home from school. The once bright, white moon became orange and enormous, making the houses in town seem darker still. The end of October drew near, and strange things began to appear where Kayla least expected them—a witch just inside the hardware store; a giant black spider clinging to her neighbor’s living room window; a ghoul standing sentry in the front yard of a house that Kayla had to pass, every day, on her way home from school.

She bore it all bravely until, on an evening on the last day of October, the transformation became clear when her doorbell rang at dusk. With a pounding heart, Kayla opened the door. What strange and unfamiliar thing would this be? The group of children on her doorstep shouted “trick or treat”, and Kayla began to laugh. Halloween she was used to, but she’d never celebrated Halloween anywhere where the town seemed to be wearing a costume too!

**1. How is the town “wearing a costume too”?**

**2. Compare the place where Kayla used to live, to Witch Hill. How are they the same? How are they different?**

**3. Why is the setting of this story important? Could it have taken place where Kayla used to live? Explain why or why not.**