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The fourth book in the Sam & Friends Mystery graphic novel series follows sheepdog Sam, his ten-year-old owner Jennie, and her friend Beth as they investigate Jennie’s new neighbours. Jennie can “hear” Sam’s thoughts, and when three women with a bewildering array of pets - including toads that hop in a straight line - move in next door, Sam is convinced that the women must be witches. Spurred on by strange weather, weird potions, and disappearing pets, the threesome is determined to solve the mystery.

Sam is the source of most of the misunderstandings about the women. She believes she has been hexed and convinces the girls to search the house for a book of spells. At moments both humorous and suspenseful, this is an engaging, if slightly silly, story. The story’s conclusion brings attention to neglected animals and those who help them.

The greyscale line drawings by Jo Rioux add to the mystery and suspense, especially the seemingly sinister portrayal of the male witch. Each page has at most three or four panels, and is accompanied by text that is large enough to be easily read. The mystery is suspenseful without being too scary and, combined with the relatively easy reading level, is ideally suited for younger readers.

Thematic Links: Mystery; Witches; Animal Neglect

Kristine Moruzi
What does Witches Brew have to do with the murder? Read more. One person found this helpful. This book will have you laughing in some spots, thinking you've got it all figured out, but most likely you'll be shaking your head cause you didn't see that coming. I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read the rest of the series. I recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a good cozy mystery. Read more. One person found this helpful. Witches' Brew book. Read 5 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. A spooky adventure for girls --- book four of A Sam & Friends Mystery ...Â Let us know whatâ€™s wrong with this preview of Witches' Brew by Mary Labatt. Problem: Itâ€™s the wrong book Itâ€™s the wrong edition Other. Details (if other): Cancel. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. (A Sam & Friends Mystery, Book Four). Mary Labatt. Illustrated by Jo Rioux. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 2011. 96 pp., pbk. & hc., $7.95 (pbk.), $16.95 (hc.). ISBN 978-1-55453-473-9 (pbk.), ISBN 978-1-55453-472-2 (hc.). Subject Heading: Dogs -Comic books, strip, ect.. Grades 1-5 / Ages 6-10.Â In the fourth graphic novel of the â€œSam & Friends Mysteryâ€ series, Sam and Jennie get new neighbours when three strange sisters move into the house across the street. Weird things start happening in the neighbourhood, including wacky weather, strange visitors showing up with mysterious packages and even stranger pets that keep disappearing. Samâ€™s nose for mystery is twitching, and Sam and the girls hypothesize that the sisters are witches: Beth: Letâ€™s think. Who uses toads?