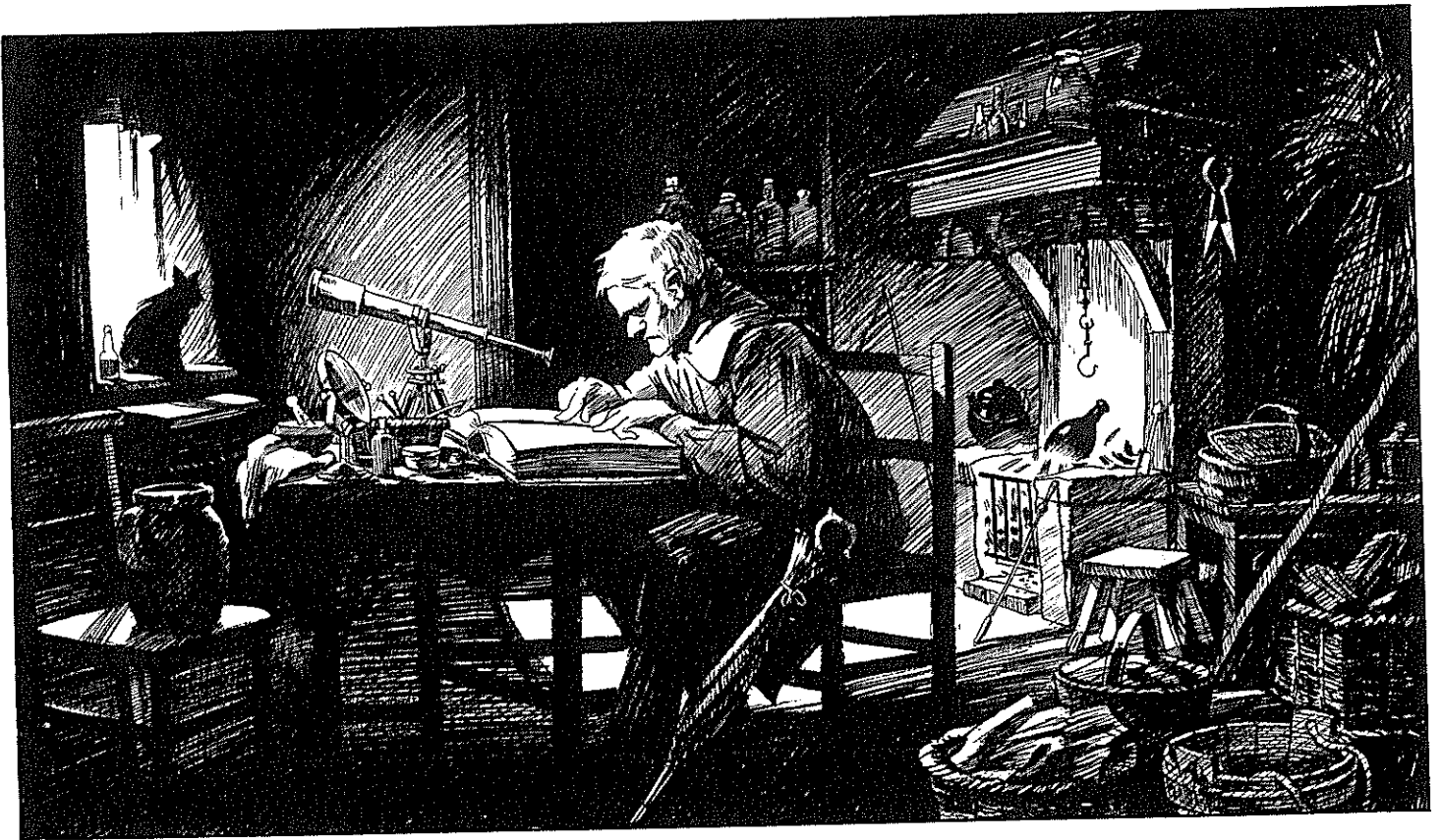
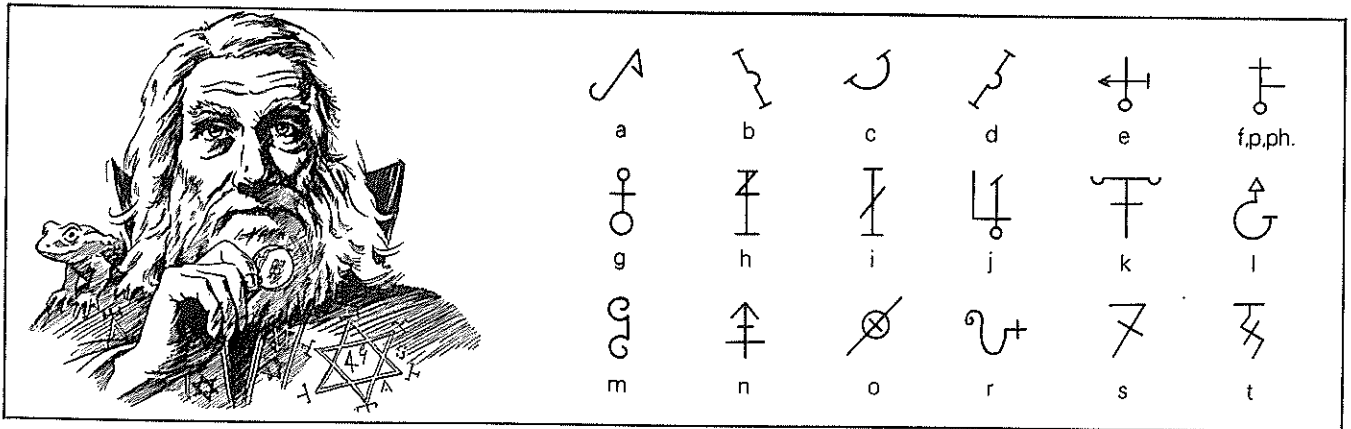


Witches and wizards

Here is Cunning Murrell, the magician.
He lived in Essex over a hundred years ago when
most people believed in witches.
People believed that he was a wizard and went to
him for help to cure an illness.
Cunning Murrell mixed up the cures and potions in his
strange little cottage.
He always wore a long blue coat and he never went
without his umbrella.
It was said that he had a telescope to see through walls
and a mirror to look into the past.
He was most famous for removing spells that witches were
supposed to have cast on people.
He did this by filling an iron bottle with things that
belonged to the person.
Then he would put the bottle on the fire.
As the bottle heated up the witch would get a terrible
burning feeling in her body and she would remove the spell.



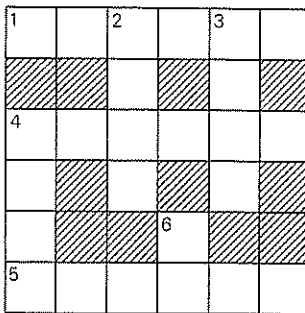
A magic alphabet Witches, wizards, and magicians often wrote down their spells and potions using a secret alphabet like this one.



A Write sentences to answer these questions about Cunning Murrell.

- 1 Who was Cunning Murrell and when did he live?
- 2 How do you know that people were not afraid of him?
- 3 What two strange magic things did he own?
- 4 What did he most often do to help people?
- 5 What did he do with the iron bottles?
- 6 Why did a witch remove the spell?

B Copy this 6 x 6 square grid and do the crossword using the clues given below.



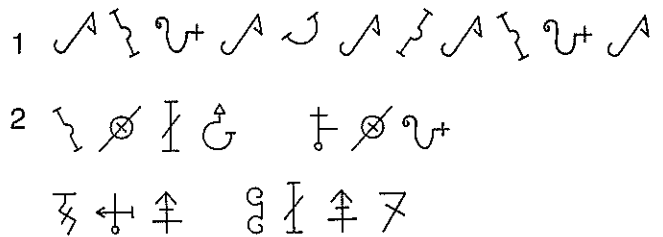
Across

- 1 Witches cast these on people.
- 4 Witches sometimes fly on broom_____.
- 5 Cunning Murrell was a _____.

Down

- 2 Some witches can be nasty, bad, and _____.
- 3 The opposite of dislike.
- 4 Just the sort of meal to cook in a witch's pot.
- 6 A lazy way of saying 'thank you'.

C Use the secret alphabet at the top of this page to find out what these words are.



3 Make up signs for the rest of the alphabet.

D Copy out this poem putting the right words in each gap.

pan hat sky can cat fly

The wicked witch has a spitting _____,
A pointed chin, and a pointed _____.
She's a modern witch, for she likes to _____,
On a vacuum cleaner, over the _____.
She cooks her spells in a non-stick _____,
And she watches the TV whenever she _____.

E Something to talk about.

- 1 What do you know about witches or wizards?
Do you think they can really do magic?
- 2 Why do you think people are frightened of witches but not of wizards?
- 3 Talk about the witches and wizards you have read about in stories, or seen on television.