

*Third Times the Charm*, Robert Howell

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**12 Books to Hook Kids**

This story owes a lot to the now-familiar Hogwarts' theme of magic lessons and spell practice, but Howell's three child witch characters engage the reader's sympathy in their own right. The prose is pictorially vivid and describes spell rituals together with their ethical uses. The story mixes a bit of history, a bit of mystery, a lot of fantasy and a measure of kids-against-adult-world-ism that together make a very satisfying escape for the pre-teen reader.

— Barbara Julian