

20 RIDDLES

Solve before midnight

- ① *I have hands but cannot clap, a face but cannot see. I hang upon your wall and count the hours until you're free.*
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- ② *Look at me and I look back — I copy every move you make. Yet step away, and in my world there's nothing left to take.*
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- ③ *I wear a crooked grin tonight, hollowed out and lit within. Once a field crop, plain and round — now your porch guard with a tin.*
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- ④ *I melt the longer that I live, and weep in slow translucent tears. Blow once and all my work is done; my final breath dissolves your fears.*
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- ⑤ *Eight legs spun me, none now claim me. Dust collects within my snare. Sweep me out — I will return by morning, hanging in the air.*
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- ⑥ *No eyes, no skin, no name to speak — I grin the same in joy or strife. I was the last thing you will be, and once the centerpiece of life.*
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- ⑦ *Witches favor me for travel, but I sweep your kitchen floor. I lean against a humble corner, bristles up, behind the door.*
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- ⑧ *Brass or glass, I twist to greet you, cool against a nervous palm. Turn me clockwise, turn me back — I keep the howling night out calm.*
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- ⑨ *I hold a moment that has fled, behind a square of polished pane. The faces locked behind my glass no longer answer to their name.*
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- ⑩ *I count the days, then shed them slow, a paper memory on the wall. By October I am thinning out — by January, lost to fall.*
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- ⑪ *Iron-toothed and small enough to pocket, I unlock what fear locked tight. Lose me once and you will know the longest, coldest sort of night.*
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- ⑫ *Carry me into the dark and I will hold a flame inside my throat. Older than the bulb that came to shame me — I am the watchman by the moat.*
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- ⑬ *I stretch when sun is low, and shrink when it is high. I follow you through every room and vanish when you die.*
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- ⑭ *I am the heart of every cottage — stone-mouthed, ash-tongued, warm at night. A witch may roast a child in me, or simply boil a kettle right.*
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- ⑮ *Spill me and luck spills with you; toss a pinch behind your back. I season every wake and feast and ward off what the dark may pack.*
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- ⑯ *Hot, I am a slow gold river; cold, I am a frozen ghost. Look beneath the brass and you will find the shape of who pressed me the most.*
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- ⑰ *Cross the room, then cross it back — the painted gaze still meets your own. Hung in oil two centuries past, the watcher there is not alone.*
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- ⑱ *I am where two walls agree to meet, and where the spider stakes a claim. Stand inside me as a child being punished — you will know my name.*
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- ⑲ *I am crossed beneath when guests arrive, and crossed above when they depart. A horseshoe nailed against me brings the luck — a coffin*

ANSWER KEY — HOST USE ONLY

Conceal from guests. Adjudicate with mercy.

- 1 *I have hands but cannot clap, a face but cannot see. I hang upon your wall and count the hours until you're free.*
· **A clock**
- 2 *Look at me and I look back — I copy every move you make. Yet step away, and in my world there's nothing left to take.*
· **A mirror**
- 3 *I wear a crooked grin tonight, hollowed out and lit within. Once a field crop, plain and round — now your porch guard with a tin.*
· **A jack-o-lantern (pumpkin)**
- 4 *I melt the longer that I live, and weep in slow translucent tears. Blow once and all my work is done; my final breath dissolves your fears.*
· **A candle**
- 5 *Eight legs spun me, none now claim me. Dust collects within my snare. Sweep me out — I will return by morning, hanging in the air.*
· **A spider web (cobweb)**
- 6 *No eyes, no skin, no name to speak — I grin the same in joy or strife. I was the last thing you will be, and once the centerpiece of life.*
· **A skull**
- 7 *Witches favor me for travel, but I sweep your kitchen floor. I lean against a humble corner, bristles up, behind the door.*
· **A broom (broomstick)**
- 8 *Brass or glass, I twist to greet you, cool against a nervous palm. Turn me clockwise, turn me back — I keep the howling night out calm.*
· **A doorknob**
- 9 *I hold a moment that has fled, behind a square of polished pane. The faces locked behind my glass no longer answer to their name.*
· **A picture frame (photo frame)**
- 10 *I count the days, then shed them slow, a paper memory on the wall. By October I am thinning out*
- 11 *Iron-toothed and small enough to pocket, I unlock what fear locked tight. Lose me once and you will know the longest, coldest sort of night.*
· **A key (skeleton key)**
- 12 *Carry me into the dark and I will hold a flame inside my throat. Older than the bulb that came to shame me — I am the watchman by the moat.*
· **A lantern**
- 13 *I stretch when sun is low, and shrink when it is high. I follow you through every room and vanish when you die.*
· **A shadow**
- 14 *I am the heart of every cottage — stone-mouthed, ash-tongued, warm at night. A witch may roast a child in me, or simply boil a kettle right.*
· **A hearth (fireplace)**
- 15 *Spill me and luck spills with you; toss a pinch behind your back. I season every wake and feast and ward off what the dark may pack.*
· **A salt shaker (salt)**
- 16 *Hot, I am a slow gold river; cold, I am a frozen ghost. Look beneath the brass and you will find the shape of who pressed me the most.*
· **Candle wax (a wax drip)**
- 17 *Cross the room, then cross it back — the painted gaze still meets your own. Hung in oil two centuries past, the watcher there is not alone.*
· **A painting whose eyes follow you (an old portrait)**
- 18 *I am where two walls agree to meet, and where the spider stakes a claim. Stand inside me as a child being punished — you will know my name.*
· **A corner of a room**
- 19 *I am crossed beneath when guests arrive, and crossed above when they depart. A horseshoe nailed against me brings the luck — a coffin slides through, breaks the heart.*
· **The top of a doorway (the lintel)**