

# BABA YAGA:

## WICKED WITCH OR GOOD GRANNY?

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donor



Baba Yaga's role in Slavic folklore and folklore retellings is not static. Rather than existing strictly as a helpful figure or harmful figure, she exists as the gatekeeper of magic or magical knowledge forming a boundary between our world and the Otherworld.

Baba Yaga's fluidity in function in folktales reflects cultural attitudes towards magic in general. Just as Baba Yaga is neither clearly good or bad, magic itself is also neither good nor bad.



villain

### Evolution in Characterization Over Time

#### Traditional

##### **Baba Yaga in *Vasilisa the Beautiful*:**

Threatens protagonist, attempts to trick protagonist, ultimately gives helpful magical item to protagonist

#### Modern Retelling

##### **Baba Yaga in *The House with the Chicken Legs*:**

The grandmother of protagonist, disappears when magical rules are broken, and must be rescued by protagonist