

## Story 3: Baba Yaga



Story shared by: *Viktoriia*

Representing: *Ukrainians in Groningen*

### The Story:

Once upon a time, in a small village next to a vast forest, a merchant and his kind daughter, Vazilisa, lived peacefully. On her deathbed, Vazilisa's dying mother gave her a magical doll for protection.

However, peace was short-lived as her father remarried a cruel woman who burdened Vazilisa with endless chores. One day, the stepmother extinguished the house's only candle and sent Vazilisa to fetch fire from the fearsome witch, Baba Yaga, hoping she wouldn't return. Approaching Baba Yaga's eerie hut on chicken legs, Fazilisa was tasked with impossible chores. With her magical doll's assistance, Fazilisa had completed all her tasks.

Baba Yaga watched in astonishment as she had never seen such determination and pure-heartedness. The witch called her over when she was done with her tasks. Moved by Fazilisa's preservance and kindness, she asked, How do you manage all my tasks so quickly? I have my mother's blessing, ' said Fazilisa. Get out of here, ' shrieks Baba Yaga. I don't need blessed ones under this roof.

Displeased, Baba Yaga expelled her, giving her a glowing skull for light. Fazilisa's return shocked her stepmother, who fled the village in fear. Her father, realizing his neglect, promised to always protect and cherish Fazilisa, allowing them to live happily ever after.



