

Macbeth

William Shakspeare, 1606

Macbeth is a tale of kings and royalty, but is perhaps most famous for the scene below, in which three witches attempt to cast a spell. The language, of course, is quite outdated. See if you can guess what each bolded word means. This exercise is all about guessing – don't worry about being right or wrong!

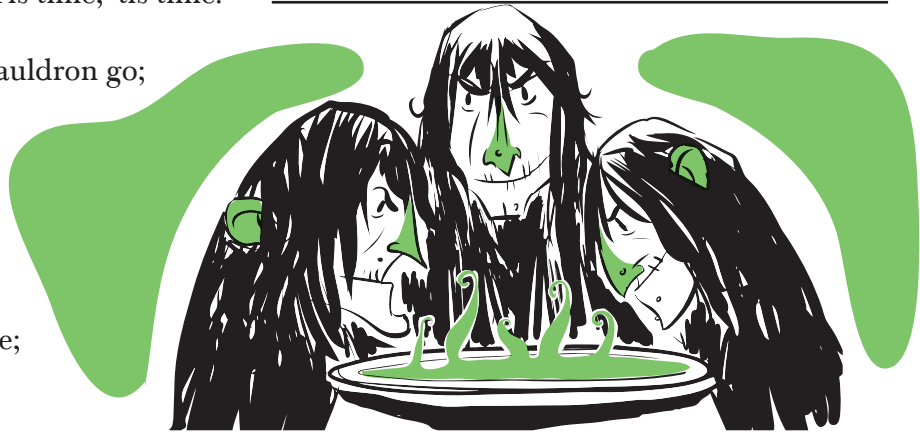
FIRST WITCH: Thrice the **brinded** cat hath mew'd. _____

SECOND WITCH: Thrice and once the **hedge-pig** whined. _____

THIRD WITCH: **Harpier** cries "'Tis time, 'tis time." _____

FIRST WITCH: Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.

ALL: Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.



SECOND WITCH: Fillet of a **fenny snake**, _____

In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,

Wool of bat and tongue of dog, _____

Adder's fork and **blind-worm's** sting, _____

Lizard's leg and **howlet's** wing, _____

For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hot broth boil and bubble.

ALL: Double, double toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.



THIRD WITCH: Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and **gulf** _____

Of the **ravin'd** salt-sea shark, _____

Root of hemlock **digg'd i'** the dark, _____

Add thereto a tiger's **chaudron**, _____

For the ingredients of our cauldron.

ALL: Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.



SECOND WITCH: Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.

Bonus: Find an annotated version of *Macbeth* online or in a bookstore and see what the words really mean!