Extracts from the Tragedy of Macbeth

William Shakespeare

Act IV Scene I: A cavern. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

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.

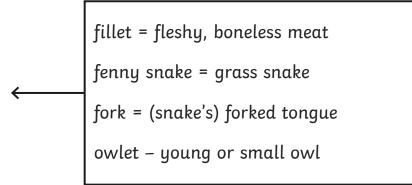
entrails = animal's intestines or internal organs swelter'd = been very hot; sweated (for 31 days) toil = hard work

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 owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

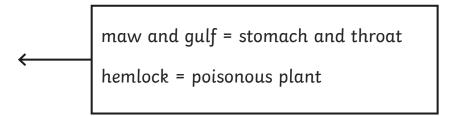


All

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,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,





Gall of goat, and slips of yew
Silver'd in the moon's eclipse,
Nose of Turk and Tartar's lips,
Finger of birth-strangled babe
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For the ingredients of our cauldron.

chaudron = entrails

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.