

Double, Double, Toil and Trouble

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Double, Double toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and cauldron bubble.

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 hell broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble,

Fire, burn; and cauldron, bubble.

Cool it with a baboon's blood:

Then the charm is firm and good.

Task 1

Retrieving Information

- 1) Use a dictionary to find the meaning
 - a) fillet
 - b) charm
- 2) What do the witches want the fire and cauldron to do?
- 3) Write three ingredients the poem asks for.

Making Inferences

- 1) What kind of character says these words? Give evidence from the text to support your answer
- 2) Do you think this is a nice spell? Give evidence from the text to support your answer
- 3) Write and draw a list of six ingredients for a spell to make someone fly around the cauldron. Give a reason for each ingredient.

Challenge Question (extended answer)

- 4) Think of one question you would like to ask William Shakespeare about the witches.