

Don't underestimate the power of this scene. It is certainly there to entertain, but also to add more texture to some of the play's ideas, and to its mood.

Macbeth has been driven, by what he saw at his own banquet, to visit the Witches in *their* kitchen, where they are preparing a feast for his eyes (this is a very visual scene).

Just how fully the details of the scene add to the atmosphere of the play at this point becomes apparent if you complete the following table, which lists the items the witches throw into the cauldron. For each item check the box(es) which indicate the idea(s) to which it contributes.

Item	Poison	Night, darkness, blindness	Cutting, dismemberment	Eating, greed, lustfulness	Unnaturalness, irreligion
Entrails	x		x		
Toad	x	x			
Snake fillet	x		x		
Newt's eye		x	x		
Frog's toe			x		
Bat's wool		x			
Dog's tongue			x		
Adder's fork	x		x		
Blind-worm's sting	x		x		
Lizard's leg			x		
Owl's wing		x	x		
Dragon's scale					x
Wolf's tooth				x	
Witches' mummy					x
Shark's stomach			x	x	
Hemlock root	x	x			x
Jew's liver			x		
Goat's gall			x	x	
Slips of yew	x	x	x		x
Turk's nose			x		x
Tartar's lips			x		x
Baby's finger			x		x
Tiger's stomach			x	x	
Baboon's blood			x	x	
Sow's blood			x		x
Gibbet grease					x

What do you notice about the items associated with greed and unnaturalness, ie the ones most closely linked with Macbeth's behavior?

Why do you think the idea of cutting, separating, has prominence in the list?

What do you notice about the ideas of poison and night?