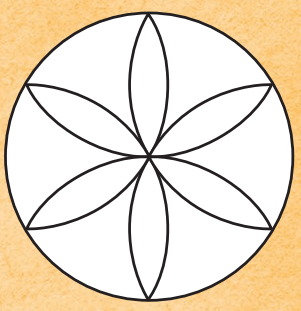
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Michael Rosen's Pocket Shakespeare: A Beginner's Guide to the Best Bits of The Bard By Michael Rosen, illustrated by Chris Riddell

The Witches' Cauldron

During Shakespeare's time, many people held 'pagan' or 'heathen' beliefs – meaning they believed in witchcraft, fairies and other magical beings. They would carve witches' marks like this into wooden door frames and beams or write charms and hide them in peg holes in the walls to protect them from evil spirits. Many of Shakespeare's plays – such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* - featured the idea of magic and magical beings.



This mark is called a 'Daisy Wheel'. There are a pair of these at the top of the cellar stairs in Shakespeare's Birthplace!

Double, double, toil and trouble...

In Macbeth, the three witches can see the future. They meet on a bleak moor to create a spell to help them with their magic and they add all kinds of weird and wonderful ingredients to their bubbling brew. Follow these instructions to make your own magical witches' cauldron - lizard legs not required!

YOU WILL NEED

For the background:

- A5 Paper – cartridge paper or other thick paper ideally
- A paintbrush
- Watercolour paints
- Water

For the cauldron:

- Black paper
- Cauldron template
- Glue
- Cotton wool ball (optional)
- Environmentally friendly glitter (optional)
- Paint pens (optional)



Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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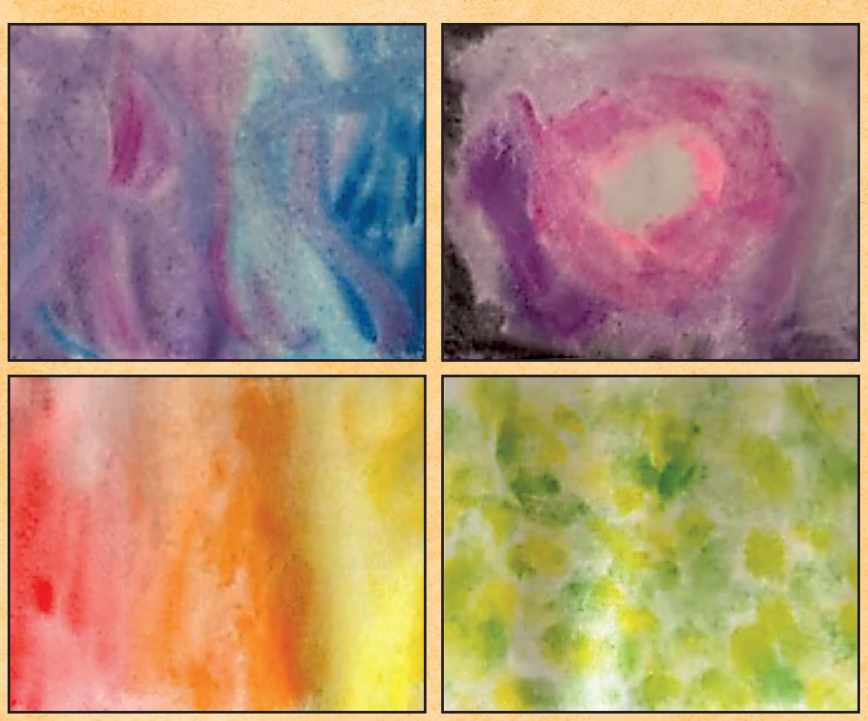
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BACKGROUND

There are lots of different ways to paint the background so experiment with various techniques and colours before you do your final picture.

1. Paint the paper with clean water. This will help the colours to blend more easily to make unique patterns.
2. Paint the colour onto the paper. You could dab it on, paint it in lines to create a gradient effect or mix the two techniques! Here are some examples:



3. When you have decided on your colours and techniques, get a clean piece of A5 paper and create your background.

Top tips!

- Use masking tape to divide your paper into smaller boxes so you can try them all out without wasting paper.
- When brushing water on, don't let the paper get too wet. It wants to be wet but not soggy! If you use too much water, dab the paper with a paper towel to soak it up.
- Always wash your brush when changing colours to keep your palette clean.

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CAULDRON

Once your background is dry, it is time to add your cauldron.

1. Draw around the cauldron template on black paper and cut it out.
2. Carefully glue it at the bottom of your background.
3. Now time to add your smoke! Put glue on the picture where you want the smoke to be then carefully pull apart the cotton wool ball, so it gets wispy. Stick these wispy strands onto the patches of glue.
4. Add patches of glitter if you want it to be extra magical!
5. You could use paint pens to write the ingredients for the spell, a quote from the speech or draw some creepy cobwebs – it's up to you!





More ideas!

Your watercolour background could be used to create all kinds of Shakespeare-inspired magical silhouette pictures. How about...

- The three witches standing around their cauldron?
- Caliban's magical island?
- A forest perfect for a fairy king and queen?
- Prospero and his staff?

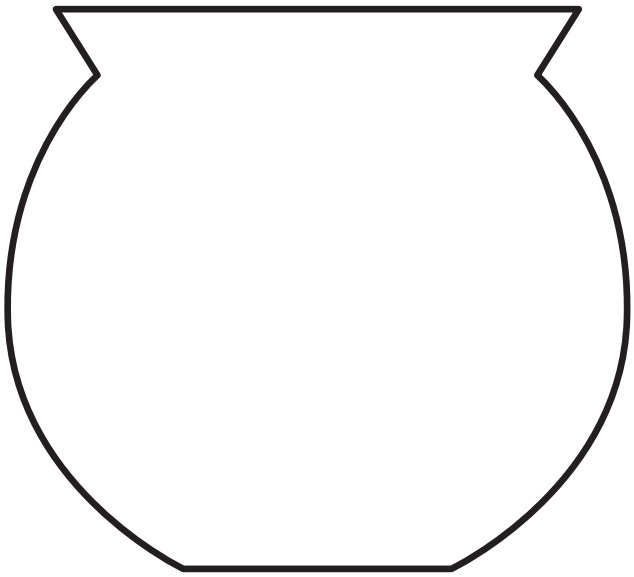
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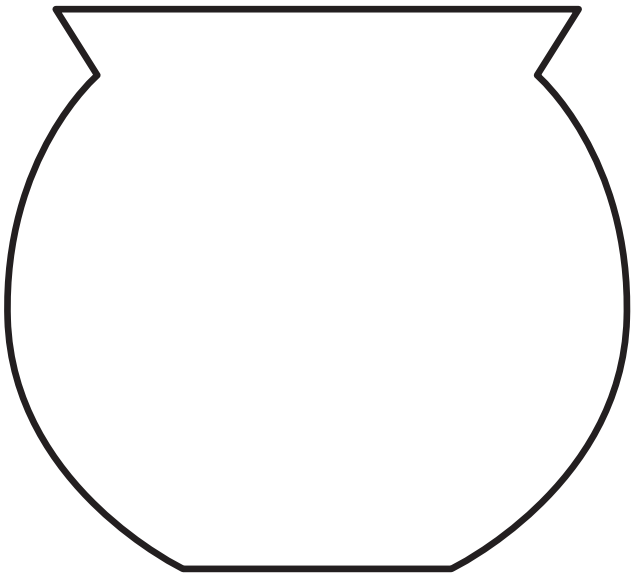
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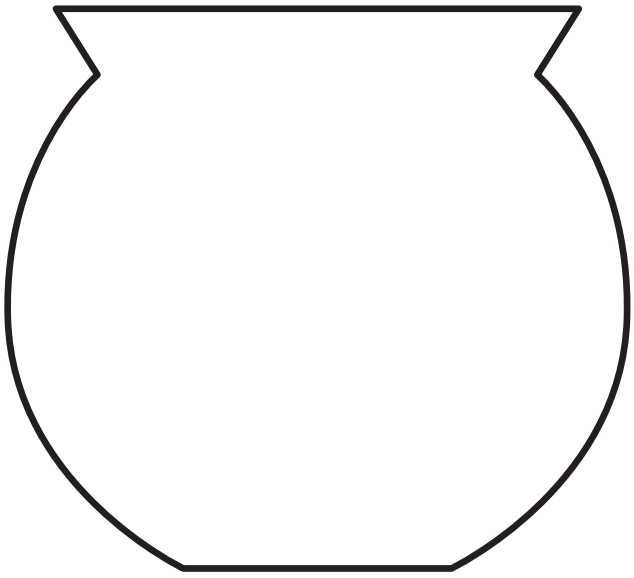
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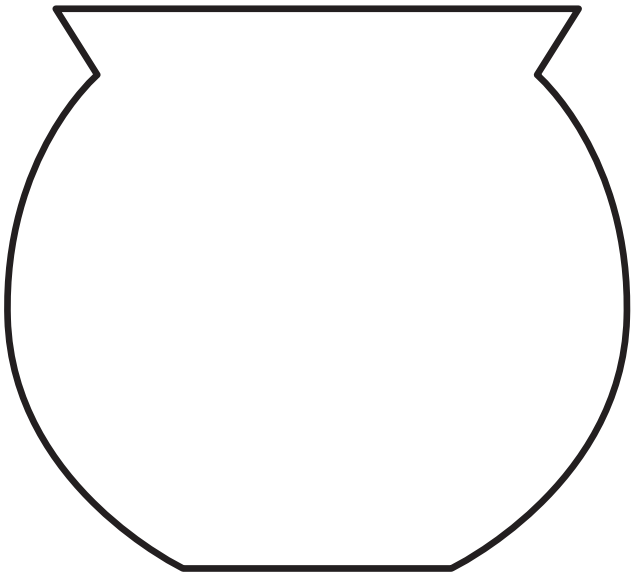
Cauldron template

Draw round and cut out a cauldron using these templates on black paper.









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