

WITCH WILLOW AND THE WITCH'S BREW

by Lois Walker

PROPS, INGREDIENTS, GIFT BAGS:

Place a big cooking pot in the center of your storytelling area. Behind the pot (and away from the audience's view) arrange measuring cups containing ingredients for your witch's brew (trail mix). (Your volunteers will add these ingredients to the pot during the performance). Small gift bags containing the same trail mix and decorated with festive ribbon can be hidden somewhere off to the side. Once the performance is over, the gift bags will be handed out to all your audience members as a way to thank them for helping both you and Witch Willow with the witch's brew recipe.

STORYTELLER/READER:

This is a story called "Witch Willow and the Witch's Brew". Get ready! Pay attention! I'm going to need your help with the witch's brew recipe in the story. Whenever I say the words:

(Cue line):

"Witch Willow waved her magic wand to cast a spell on her cooking pot. Then she said..."

You say:

Bubble, bubble in the pot. (Storyteller shows audience members how to mime waving wands while this line is being spoken aloud by all)

No! (Storyteller shows audience members how to mime throwing both hands up in the air on the word "no")

There's something I forgot! (Storyteller shows audience members how to mime hitting themselves on the forehead on the word "I")

(Rehearse the cue and this little verse with hand motions a couple of times, then start the story).

Good! I think you've got it. Let's start the story.

It's always best to begin a story at the beginning. That works especially well today, because – this story is about a witch who was a *beginner* herself!

Witch Willow was a *beginner* witch. That means she wasn't a *real* witch - yet. She was in first grade at Broomwitch School and before she could become a real witch, she had to pass her final exam! If Willow passed the exam, she would finally be a *real* witch.

But - just like in any good story - there was a *problem*! Her exam was a "Witches Brew" exam and Willow's worst subject was cooking! Willow had a very bad memory and she just couldn't remember what ingredients she was supposed to put in the pot. Now, if you know anything about cooking, you know this is a very *big problem*.

(*Cue line*):

And every time Witch Willow waved her magic wand to cast a spell on her cooking pot, she said...

Bubble, bubble in the pot. (Audience members mime waving wand)
No! (Audience members throw both hands up in the air on the word "no")

There's something I forgot! (Audience members mime hitting themselves on the forehead on the word "I").

And indeed she did! She always forgot something.

Well, the dreaded day finally arrived and Willow marched into Broomwitch School to take her final exam. She was given a large cooking pot, a magic wand, and a list of ingredients to put into the pot. Then she was left alone.

Willow was nervous. She tapped the pot with her wand. It seemed like a good sturdy pot and this made her feel a little better. Then she checked the list. The instructions said:

"Here is your list of ingredients. First, read this list and remember each ingredient. Second, throw this list into the pot. Third, place all the ingredients in the pot and mix to complete your witch's brew. No peeking at the list - no cheating! Good luck."

(Storyteller picks up a colorful list – decorated with witch stickers, etc. – and reads the following):

Here is the list of ingredients:

½ cup LIVE BEETLES
1 LIVE GOLDFISH
½ cup BONE CHIPS FROM A SKELETON
½ cup WIGGLY, SQUIGGLY, SLIMY, SQUIRMY WORMS
½ cup GOOGLY GREMLIN EYES
½ cup BABY GHOST NOSES (or GHOST POO)

"Oh, no!" cried Willow. "I'm confused already. I'll never remember what to put in that pot."

But Willow followed the instructions. She read the list, then she threw the list into the pot.

(Ask someone from the audience to come forward and throw the list into the pot. As the volunteer does this, storyteller says):

(Cue line):

Witch Willow waved her magic wand to cast a spell on her cooking pot. Then she said...

Bubble, bubble in the pot. (Audience members mime waving wand)
No! (Audience members throw both hands up in the air on the word "no")

There's something I forgot! (Audience members mime hitting themselves on the forehead on the word "I").

(Volunteer is thanked and goes back to place in audience).

And, of course, she HAD forgotten everything. Oh dear! Can you help her? Does anyone remember the ingredients on that list?

(Storyteller will ask the audience to call out names of the ingredients that are to be thrown into the pot. For each ingredient put into the pot, select a different volunteer from the audience. For example, when someone from the audience suggests "Live Beetles" find a volunteer to add that ingredient substitute to the pot.

LIVE BEETLES! Yes – that was the first ingredient on the list. Yuck! Willow searched around the classroom to see if she could find any bugs hiding in the corners or under a desk. There wasn't a live beetle to be found anywhere. Willow knew she would have to think of