



Twelve if by Broom

Hear now (and possibly be chagrined) about trials that were judged by the stern witch Glinda. (Did you think she was always nice because she befriended young *Dorothy, savior of Oz?*)

It is a little known fact that there were additional witch trials held right here on *Salem Street*, where “Good Witches” tried “Bad Witches” for unlawfully using eye of newt and similar “organic” sources of magic to enchant brooms. Of course, the trials themselves used magical items to point out the guilty characters ...

Instructions for completing this puzzle:

1. Fill the grid, with the aid of the Plummeting and Descending Gradually clues.
2. After completing step 1, look at the Descending Gradually answers that cross the shaded line; the initial letters of their clues will spell out the two kinds of magical items used in the trials.
3. Three additional entries in the grid are the three organic sources of magic used to enchant those items; the phrase at 9 & 10 Plummeting will tell you what these three are doing, gradually, in the grid.
4. In all, a total of eight magical items (some of one kind, some of the other) were used; you can find them in the grid (represented by letters) steeping in the three organic sources of magic. They point out certain characters immediately adjacent to them, two or three at a time; examine all those characters en masse to find the solution.

Q12

At the time, the Boston Glowing Globe commented that “the use of magical evidence by Judge Glinda really _____.”

Twelve if by Broom (continued)

Plummeting

1. Rascal (5) / Belgrade resident (4)
2. -Ish, as a prefix (5) / *M*A*S*H* setting (5)
3. Hamilton's slayer (4) / More like a lion in color (7)
4. ___ alai (3) / Pelt (3) / Me, ___, and I (6)
5. 1972 nuclear pact (4 1) / Besmirches (5) / ___ ipsa loquitur (3)
6. Earliest (5) / Keepsakes (9)
7. Sends by plane (8) / ___ Paulo (3) / Bert who played a Cowardly Lion (4)
8. Rarely-used metal club (3-4) / Far from difficult (4) / Ice shelter (5)
- 9 & 10. What three organic sources of magic are gradually doing in the grid (7 7)
11. Cheap (3-4) / Tree with peelable bark (5) / Result of tying (4)
12. Rater (8) / "Bali ___" (3) / Some nest eggs, briefly (4)
13. Brand of wee mints (3 4) / Desert-like (4) / Fleur-de-___ (3)
14. Series of steps (5) / Letters preceding a URL (4) / Butterfly-catchers (4)
15. Harden (3) / Preserve (6-3)
16. Scion (4) / Airport near Paris (4) / Insult (3)
17. Slangy denial (5) / Congo, once (5)
18. In ___ (surrounded by a void) (5) / Starting component of wine-words (4)

Descending Gradually

- Breaking waves / Zanzibar, e.g.
- Deep Space Nine's shapeshifter / Location / Giga-giga-
- Dorsal muscles / Improvised knife
- Florida city / Directive preceding *con Dios* / Megan from *Smash*

- Giving up / Line of bigheaded fashion dolls / Yang's counterpart
- Houston ballplayer / Old realm including Russia / Apple products
- Lake feeding Niagara Falls / Neighborhoods with many theaters
- Loses one's lunch / Sign indicating theatrical success, briefly
- Male kids / Tina Fey's old show, for short / Actress Gershon, et aliae
- Once more / Shoo! / *Monsters*, ___
- "Personal assistant" app / Slangy greetings / Water-carved gully
- Rd. with landscaping / Wall-building Pope (2 wds.) / Actor Kristofferson
- Tenor Enrico, et al. / Resting place of Mumtaz Mahal / Non-big-studio
- Two-___ (short film) / "Della and the Dealer" singer Axton
- Ultralight wood / Not unaware of / Commemorative stone pillars
- Where a liege held sway / Tau ___ (notably sunlike star) / Herr's mate
- Wide-mouthed container / Injury detectors / Piece in quick triple time
- Y'all, in Berlin / Pitcher Martinez

[9 & 10 Plummeting] Gradually

- * Organic source of magic (9)
- * Organic source of magic (5 6)
- * Organic source of magic (6)

