

EXTRACT

Witches, Wands and Warlocks

a ten-minute comedy

by

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Characters

BELINDA The poster

MEG

THANDO

PETER TEMPLE

ROBB

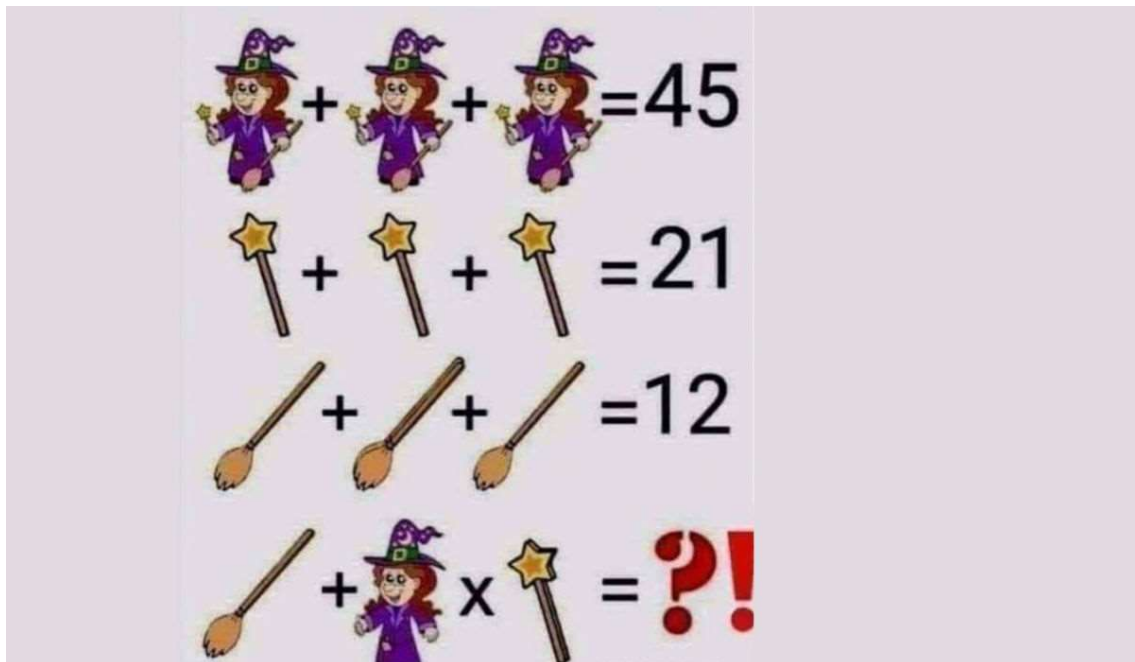
Time

Midnight

Setting

Online – a Facebook post

The problem



LIGHTS UP ON **MEG, THANDO** AND **BELINDA**, THEY FACE THE AUDIENCE.

THE P/GUILLELO PROBLEM IS PROJECTED ON A SCREEN BEHIND THEM SO THE AUDIENCE CAN SEE IT, BUT THEY LOOK OUT TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE AS IF THEY ARE SEEING IT OVER THEIR HEADS.

MEG: Hmmm...32?

BELINDA: Nope!

MEG: Ok, how about 57? I am now looking at a computer and see quite a bit more detail than my mobile!

BELINDA: It's tricky like that.

THANDO: 49?

BELINDA: Nope

THANDO: Ahahah furious!! I blame my late-night vision for making them all blurry. Didn't notice the double wands.

MEG: Double what?

THANDO: Wands.

MEG: Where?

THANDO: Bottom row. Look closely.

MEG: Is that double? How is that double?

THANDO: It's double.

BELINDA: I'm not saying anything.

MEG: Okay – so if that is double then the answer is 112.

THANDO: How do you get 112?

MEG: Broom equals 4, witch equals 4, Wand equals 7 so -

BELINDA: Broom equals 4?

THANDO: It doesn't?

BELINDA: Maybe there are more doubles.

MEG: What?

BELINDA: Look closely!

MEG: This is so annoying!

THEY ALL LAUGH.

MEG: Okay... second line – no doubles – so wand equals 7. Third line – no doubles.

BELINDA: Mmmm...

MEG: What?

THANDO: Oh my god – two brooms!

MEG: Where?

THANDO: In the middle.

MEG: That's not two – how is that two?

THANDO: It's two.

MEG: Belinda H Reid is that two?

BELINDA: Meg Deyell – I say nothing.

MEG: You're loving this.

THEY ALL LAUGH.

LIGHTS UP ON **PETER TEMPLE**

PETER TEMPLE: 57.

MEG: I already said that – Peter Temple.

PETER TEMPLE: And?

THANDO: Wrong apparently.

PETER TEMPLE: Okay – 112.

BELINDA: Nope.

PETER TEMPLE: 63.

BELINDA: Look closely.

MEG: She loves saying that.

PETER TEMPLE: At what?

BELINDA: Everything.

PETER TEMPLE: Okay well the witch is 15, the wand is 7 and the broom is 4 so 4 plus 15 equals 19 times 7 is 133.

THANDO: I think you're getting further away.

PETER TEMPLE: How?

MEG, THANDO AND BELINDA LAUGH.

BELINDA: Look at what the witch is holding.

PETER TEMPLE: It's very small.

MEG: You need to do it on your computer.

BELINDA: Look closely.

THANDO: It is annoying when she says that.

PETER TEMPLE: ... A little wand and a little... broom? Do they count?

THANDO: Apparently so.

PETER TEMPLE: But they are like half the size of the other brooms and wands so does that mean they are only worth half?

BELINDA: That's a theory.

MEG: Fake news - Belinda H Reid.

BELINDA: It is a theory.

PETER TEMPLE: Okay so half a wand is 3.5, half a broom is 2, *which* means the *witch* then equals 9.5. So, 4 plus 9.5 times 7 equals ... anyone got a calculator?

THANDO: You're forgetting about the doubles?

PETER TEMPLE: What doubles?

MEG: I'm changing my answer – 73.

THANDO: How do you get that?

LIGHTS UP ON **ROBB**.

ROBB: Where are people getting these numbers from? The answer is clearly 38.

BELINDA: Nope. Gotta look closely.

THANDO: Meg Deyell – how do you get 73?

ROBB: Nope 38. It seems even Belinda H Reid needs to look more closely.

MEG: Robb what do you think you are seeing that we are not?

ROBB: Look at the "witch".

THANDO: We have been.

PETER TEMPLE: If you think that's a full broom in her hand, I disagree

ROBB: Meg Deyell - what value do you give to a witch, a wand, and a broom?

MEG: Broom equals 3.

PETER TEMPLE: 3?

THANDO: Double brooms – in the middle, third row.

PETER TEMPLE: (REALISING) Oh.

MEG: To continue: Broom equals 3, wand equals 7. If we ignore her coat, witch equals 5. If that is a broom on her coat, then witch equals 2. Even then either way the answer is 73, because she has a broom on her coat in the bottom equation, so her value is still 5.

ROBB: Meg Deyell - write out your equation.

MEG: Yes sir! 5 times 14, plus 3 equals 73.

PETER TEMPLE: 14?

THANDO: Double wands.

PETER TEMPLE: (REALISING) Oh.

ROBB: Meg Deyell, you are wrong. 38.

BELINDA: Robb, with two b's, you are wrong.

ROBB: There are no brackets.

MEG: Doesn't need to be. According to BODMAS, you –

PETER TEMPLE: Bod-what?

MEG: BODMAS. You remember...? A Levels. Bracket, Of, Division –

THANDO: Oh you mean PEDMAS. Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication –

BELINDA: It's the same thing.

PETER TEMPLE: Is it? I suddenly feel very stupid.

ROBB: Well you are in good company. Suffer fools and all that.

MEG: All what?

THANDO: Back in your box Robb with two b's.

MEG: I just want to know what he thinks he is seeing that we are not

BELINDA: You are correct Meg. The answer is 73.

ROBB: Belinda H Reid, Meg Deyell - are you sure?

MEG: Yes. Very sure.

ROBB: Have you worked on facts or have you made assumptions?

MEG: Just the facts Rob-bee-bee. I'm happy to be corrected if you think you can do it.

ROBB: Meg Deyell can you justify that there are 4 full brooms for instance?

PETER TEMPLE: I did mention that.