SPOOKY MAD LIBS

Paired with an object from the DMA's collection, excerpts of works by Shakespeare, Dante, and Poe set the stage for some spooky retellings. Don't be afraid to use scary, creepy, gruesome, horrific words!

*Macbeth and the Witches*
Eugène Delacroix, 1825

*Hell: Minos (Canto 5)*
Salvador Dalí, about 1960

*Raven*
Keith Carter, 1996
First Witch

Round about the _noun_ go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
_Animal_, that under _adjective_ stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom _verb_ got,
Boil thou first i' the _adjective_ pot.

Third Witch

Scale of _animal_, _body part_ of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the _adjective_ salt-sea shark,
Root of _noun_ digg'd i' the dark,
Livers of blaspheming few,
Gall of _animal_, and slips of yew
Silver'd in the moon's eclipse,
_Body part_ of Turk and Tartar's lips,
_Body part_ of birth-verb babe
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,
Make the _food item_ thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For the plural noun of our cauldron.

Second Witch

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the _noun_ _verb_ and bake;
Eye of _animal_ and _body part_ of frog,
_Noun_ of bat and _body part_ of dog,
Adder's _noun_ and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's _body part_ and owlet's wing,
For a charm of _adjective_ trouble,
Like a _location_-broth boil and bubble.

ALL

Double, double toil and trouble;
_Noun_ burn, and _noun_ bubble.
So I past tense verb from the first enclosure down to the second shape, that which girdles less noun but grief pronoun great, that goads to weeping.

There adjective Minos stands, verb ending in "ing" his body part: examining the plural noun of those who enter, he judges and assigns as his body part twines.

I mean that when the noun born to evil appears before him, it confesses all; and he, the noun of sin, can tell the depth in Hell appropriate to it; as many times as Minos plural verb his tail around himself, that plural verb the sinner’s level.

Always there is a noun that stands before him: each soul in turn plural verb toward that judgment; they verb and verb, then they are cast below.

Arresting his adjective task, Minos, as soon as he had seen me, said: “O you who reach this noun of suffering,
be **adjective** how you **verb** whom you trust; the **noun** is wide, but do not be deceived!”
To which my **noun** replied: “But why **noun**?”

Do not attempt to **verb** his fated path: our **noun** has been willed above, where One can do what He has willed; and ask no more.”

Now **plural noun** of desperation have begun to **verb** my hearing; now I come where **adjective** lamentation beats against me.

I reached a **noun** where every **noun** is muted, which **plural noun** like the sea beneath a tempest, when it is battered by **adjective** winds.

The hellish **weather phenomenon**, which never rests, drives on the spirits with its violence: wheeling and **noun ending in “ing”**, it harasses them.

When they come up against the **adjective** slope, then there are cries and **adjective** and lament, and there they **noun** the force of the divine.

I **adjective** that those who undergo this torment are damned because they **past tense verb** within the flesh, subjecting **noun** to the rule of lust.

And as, in the **adjective** season, starlings’ wings bear them along in **adjective** and **adjective** ranks so does that blast bear on the guilty spirits:

now here, now there, now down, now up, it drives them. There is no **noun** that ever comforts them—no **noun** for rest and none for lesser pain.
While I past tense verb, nearly napping, adverb there came a tapping, As of some one adverb rapping, rapping at my adjective door. “Tis some visitor,” I exclamation!, “tapping at my adjective door— Only this and nothing more.”

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the adjective December; And each separate adjective ending in "ing" ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. Eagerly I wished the morrow;— adverb I had sought to borrow From my noun surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore— For the adjective and adjective maiden whom the angels name Lenore— Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each adjective curtain Thrilled me—filled me with adjective terrors never felt before; So that now, to still the beating of my body part, I stood repeating “Tis some noun entreating entrance at my adjective door— Some late noun entreating entrance at my adjective door;— This it is and nothing more.”

Presently my soul past tense verb stronger; hesitating then no longer, “Sir,” said I, “or proper noun, truly your forgiveness I implore; But the fact is I was napping, and so adverb you came rapping, And so adverb you came tapping, tapping at my adjective door, That I adjective was sure I heard you”—here I opened wide the door;— Darkness there and nothing more.
Deep into that plural noun peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing, Doubting, dreaming plural noun no mortal ever dared to noun before; But the noun was unbroken, and the noun gave no token, And the only noun there spoken was the whispered noun, “Lenore?” This I past tense verb, and an echo murmured back the word, “Lenore!”— Merely this and pronoun more.

Back into the noun turning, all my noun within me burning, Soon again I past tense verb a tapping somewhat louder than before. “Surely,” said I, “surely that is something at my part of a house lattice; Let me verb, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore— Let my body part be still a moment and this mystery explore;— ’Tis the noun and nothing more!”

Open here I past tense verb the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter, In there stepped a adjective Raven of the adjective days of yore; Not the least noun made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he; But, with mien of lord or lady, past tense verb above my adjective door— Perched upon a body part of Pallas just above my adjective door— Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this adjective bird beguiling my emotion fancy into smiling, By the grave and adjective decorum of the countenance it wore, “Though thy body part be shorn and shaven, thou,” I said, “art sure no craven, Ghastly adjective and adjective Raven wandering from the Nightly shore— Tell me what thy adjective name is on the Night’s Plutonian shore!” Quoth the Raven “Noun.”