

# Lore Drop stuff to get you started:

## Approximate Reading Levels:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----|---------------------|----|-------------------|------|------------------------------|-----|
| Text A:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Text B:             |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| <table><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Scores:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:</td><td>60.7</td></tr><tr><td>New Dale Chall Readability:</td><td>4.9</td></tr><tr><td>Spache Readability Score:</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Grades:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:</td><td>9.1</td></tr><tr><td>Gunning Fog Index:</td><td>10.7</td></tr><tr><td>Coleman-Liau Index:</td><td>11.1</td></tr><tr><td>SMOG Index Score:</td><td>11.3</td></tr><tr><td>Automated Readability Index:</td><td>8.7</td></tr></table> | Readability Scores: |  | Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease: | 60.7 | New Dale Chall Readability: | 4.9 | Spache Readability Score: | 5 | Readability Grades: |  | Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: | 9.1 | Gunning Fog Index: | 10.7 | Coleman-Liau Index: | 11.1 | SMOG Index Score: | 11.3 | Automated Readability Index: | 8.7 | <table><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Scores:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:</td><td>67.3</td></tr><tr><td>New Dale Chall Readability:</td><td>4.1</td></tr><tr><td>Spache Readability Score:</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Readability Grades:</td></tr><tr><td>Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Gunning Fog Index:</td><td>9.4</td></tr><tr><td>Coleman-Liau Index:</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>SMOG Index Score:</td><td>10.2</td></tr><tr><td>Automated Readability Index:</td><td>7.6</td></tr></table> | Readability Scores: |  | Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease: | 67.3 | New Dale Chall Readability: | 4.1 | Spache Readability Score: | 5 | Readability Grades: |  | Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: | 8 | Gunning Fog Index: | 9.4 | Coleman-Liau Index: | 10 | SMOG Index Score: | 10.2 | Automated Readability Index: | 7.6 |
| Readability Scores:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 60.7                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| New Dale Chall Readability:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4.9                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Spache Readability Score:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5                   |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Readability Grades:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 9.1                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Gunning Fog Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 10.7                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Coleman-Liau Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 11.1                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| SMOG Index Score:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 11.3                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Automated Readability Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 8.7                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Readability Scores:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 67.3                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| New Dale Chall Readability:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4.1                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Spache Readability Score:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5                   |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Readability Grades:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 8                   |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Gunning Fog Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 9.4                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Coleman-Liau Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 10                  |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| SMOG Index Score:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10.2                |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |
| Automated Readability Index:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 7.6                 |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |     |                    |      |                     |      |                   |      |                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |  |                              |      |                             |     |                           |   |                     |  |                             |   |                    |     |                     |    |                   |      |                              |     |

**Connections:** Science, Biology, indigenous medicines, folklore, witchcraft

**Key vocab:** symptoms, **anticholinergic toxicity (anti colin ergic toxi city)**, **poisoning**, **Datura**, **witchiest**, dilated, hallucinations, constipation, **species**, **indigenous**, **sacred**, shamanic rituals, sorcery, folklore, ointments, **Haitian**, practitioners

\*Text B only contains the bolded vocab words\*

**Warning:** This story discusses a toxic and deadly plant, poison, witchcraft, zombies, and hallucinations.

**Feedback:** Our main goal is engagement and a bit of whimsy, but we don't want to spread misinformation either. Please email: [nadgeniuslabs@gmail.com](mailto:nadgeniuslabs@gmail.com) to let us know how we've done, or to give suggestions for our next Lore Drop!

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<https://buymeacoffee.com/nadgeniuslabs>

## The Witchiest Plant Out There (Text A)

"Blind as a bat, mad as a hatter, red as a beet, hot as a hare, dry as a bone, the bowel and bladder lose their tone, and the heart runs alone". This sounds like something a cartoon witch might say while stirring an evil potion. In reality it is a saying that doctors can use to help remember the **symptoms** of when someone gets poisoned. **Anticholinergic toxicity** (anti colin ergic toxi city) is a kind of **poisoning** that can happen from eating part of a **Datura** plant. These Datura plants might just be the **witchiest** plants you've never heard of. The symptoms of anticholinergic toxicity are: **dilated** pupils (blind as a bat), **hallucinations** (mad as a hatter), red skin (red as a beet), high body temperature (hot as a hare), dry mouth, skin, nose (dry as a bone), **constipation**, difficulty peeing (the bowel and bladder lose their tone), and racing heartbeat (the heart runs alone).

There are nine different **species** of Datura plants, all of which contain dangerous toxins. Throughout history, Datura poison has been used in murders, and in some countries it is even illegal to grow or sell it. Datura is considered a "witches' weed" along with other plants such as mandrake, deadly nightshade, and henbane.



Even with its deadly dangers, there is evidence of **indigenous** people in both the Americas and Asia using Datura as **sacred** plants for thousands of years. These people had in-depth knowledge on ways to use the toxic plant while reducing harm. Datura has been used for **shamanic rituals** and is often associated with witchcraft and **sorcery**. In some European **folklore**, witches were believed to use **ointments** to help them fly. Datura was thought to be a common ingredient in these flying ointments. Wade Davis, who studied how different cultures used plants, also believed that Datura was one of the main ingredients in **Haitian** zombie potion. What is a Haitian zombie potion you ask? Well no one really knows for sure. Voodoo **practitioners** are thought to be able to turn people into zombies, which can either be bodies without souls, or souls without bodies. There are a few notable historic cases where some people claimed to have been turned into zombies, and some people think that Datura plants were part of that process, but no one really knows! Either way, when you have a plant that creates zombies, and is used by witches, it is a bit of wild lore worth learning about.

## The Witchiest Plant Out There (Text B)

"Blind as a bat, mad as a hatter, red as a beet, hot as a hare, dry as a bone, the bowel and bladder lose their tone, and the heart runs alone". This sounds like something a cartoon witch might say while stirring an evil potion. Really, it is a saying that doctors can use to help remember what can happen to someone who gets poisoned. **Anticholinergic toxicity** (anticholinergic toxicity) is a kind of **poisoning** that can happen from eating part of a **Datura** plant. These Datura plants might just be the **witchiest** plants you've never heard of. The symptoms of anticholinergic toxicity are: your pupils getting bigger (blind as a bat), seeing things that aren't real (mad as a hatter), red skin (red as a beet), high body temperature (hot as a hare), dry mouth, skin, nose (dry as a bone), difficulty peeing and pooping (the bowel and bladder lose their tone), and racing heartbeat (the heart runs alone).

There are nine different **species** of Datura plants that all have **dangerous** toxins. In history, Datura poison has been used in murders, and in some countries it is even illegal to grow or sell it. Datura is called a "witches' weed" along with other plants such as mandrake, deadly nightshade, and henbane.



Even though it can be deadly, there is proof that **indigenous** people in both the Americas and Asia used Datura as **sacred** plants for thousands of years. These people knew ways to use the toxic plant but make it less harmful. Datura has been used by medicine men and is often linked to witchcraft. In some old European tales, people thought witches used creams to help them fly. Datura was thought to be a common **ingredient** in these flying creams. Wade Davis, who studied how different groups of people used plants, also believed that Datura was one of the main ingredients in **Haitian** zombie potion. What is a Haitian zombie potion you ask? Well no one really knows for sure. People who practiced voodoo are thought to be able to turn people into zombies, which can either be bodies without souls, or souls without bodies. There are a few old stories where some people claimed to have been turned into zombies, and some people think that Datura plants were part of that, but no one really knows! Either way, when you have a plant that creates zombies, and is used by witches, it is a bit of wild lore worth learning about.