

Harry Potter Party – Potions Class Instructions



Here are the instructions for Hogwarts students to make the Mandrake Restorative Draught in Potions class.



Close-up of dandelion root
(yellow food coloring added to baking soda)



Close-up of mandrake root
(plain baking soda)



Close-up of phoenix tears
(white vinegar)



Close-up of purified water
(plain old water!)



1. BEFORE the party, carefully add enough baking soda to cover the bottom of a jar (about a heaping teaspoon). This is a French yogurt jar; you can also use baby food jars or plastic cups.



2. BEFORE the party, carefully add a small amount of blue-colored or red-colored baking soda to the CENTER of the jar (about a quarter teaspoon – tightly packed).



3. BEFORE the party, sprinkle enough plain baking soda to completely cover the blue or red area (you do not want to see the color from the top, sides or bottom).

Prepare one for each student IN ADVANCE of the class (this is the secret of the trick). Explain to the students that mandrake root is very sensitive to movement and you had to do this at night when the air was very calm.



4. Each student should receive a goblet of water (about 2 tablespoons worth) and a small vial of phoenix tears. These vials may be found at florist shops; the cordial glass is from Goodwill. The 'pinch' spoon is from Williams-Sonoma.



5. Each student should carefully add a pinch of dandelion root to their portion of mandrake root (being careful not to disturb it!).



6. Each student should then SLOWLY add their vial of phoenix tears.



7. The solution will bubble up a bit as the vinegar reacts with the baking soda.

I highly recommend testing this in advance to make sure it works correctly with your measurements.



8. Next, students should carefully pour the purified water into the jar.



9. As the water hits the under layer of color, you will see it begin to change color as if 'by magic'. It's a pretty cool effect since they are only adding a clear substance!



10. This can get a bit messy; I recommend having a tray underneath to catch any spillage.



These are dried fiddle-head ferns – they look like something magical!



These are dried rose petals – the uglier, the better!



This is a very old, tarnished silver bowl filled with dried bits of cactus