

# **Key Stage Three—Spring 2—Macbeth**



#### Context:

King James I - James I had been James VI of Scotland before he succeeded to the English throne in 1603. In focusing on Macbeth, a figure from Scottish history, Shakespeare paid homage to his king's Scottish lineage. Additionally, the witches' prophecy that Banquo will found a line of kings is a clear nod to James' family's claim to have descended from the historical Banquo.

Witchcraft and Daemonologie - King James was convinced that a group of witches were Lady Macbeth: Unsex me here (1.5) plotting to bring about his death and played an active role in the North Berwick witch trials. He later published Daemonologie in 1597. Charges of witchcraft continued in Great Britain, with Scotland in particular experiencing a number of witch hunt crazes.

### Plot Summary:

#### Act One-

Macbeth and Banquo meet witches, previous Cawdor executed, Lady Macbeth reads letter then manipulates husband, Duncan arrives

#### Act Two-

Macbeth contemplates murder, sees dagger, Kills Duncan, Malcolm flees, Macbeth crowned.

#### Act Three-

Banquo suspects Macbeth, Banquo murdered but Fleance escapes, Banquo's ghost appears at banquet.

#### Act Four-

Macbeth goes back to witches, Macduff's family murdered while Macduff is in England, Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty.

## Act Five-

Lady Macbeth sleepwalks then commits suicide, Macbeth prepares for battle, Macduff kills Macbeth, Malcolm becomes king

**Key Quotations:** 

Witches: Fair is foul and foul is fair (1.1)

Macbeth: Stars, hide your fires/Let not light see my black and deep desires (1.4)

Macbeth: Is this a dagger which I see before me? (2.1)

Lady Macbeth: My hands are of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white (2.2)

Macbeth: Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife (3.2)

Macbeth: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck (3.2) Blood will have blood (3.4)

Witch: By the pricking of my thumbs/something wicked this way comes (4.1)

Malcolm: This tyrant whose sole name blisters our tongue was once thought honest (4.3)

Lady Macbeth: All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand (5.1)

Macbeth: Life's but a walking shadow (5.5) Macbeth: I bear a charmed life (5.8)

Useful Websites: https://www.bl.uk/#

https://www.rsc.org.uk/macbeth/education



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Self-Quiz Questions—Bronze (Recall)	Self-Quiz Questions—Silver (Apply)	Challenge Questions—Gold (Research/ Create)
1. What does Lady Macbeth receive from her husband in Act One?	How can we tell that Lady Macbeth is ambitious?	1. Research how the theme of ambition links back to  Macbeth.
2. Who was the monarch Shakespeare wrote <i>Macbeth</i> for?	2. How did Shakespeare ensure that the play appealed to King James's interests?	2. Use the British library website to research Shakespeare and witchcraft.
3. What does Macbeth see before he murders Duncan?	3. Explain the significance of the dagger quotation.	3. YouTube a performance of the dagger speech and then write a short review of their performance.
4. Who flees after Duncan is killed?	4. Why is Macbeth unable to ever feel secure in this play?	4. Research the Divine Right of Kings and explain its significance.
5. Who is Banquo and why is he an important character?	5. How does Macbeth's relationship with Banquo change during the course of the play?	5. List 6 adjectives to describe Banquo and then use them to outline how he is different from Macbeth.
6. Who returns during the banquet scene?	6. Find a quotation that suggests Macbeth feels unsettled and explain why you have chosen it.	6. Research the key conventions of a tragedy. Explain why Macbeth is considered a tragedy.
7. Where is Macduff when his family is murdered?	7. Why might we say that the play becomes more violent in Act Four?	7. Choose one scene from the play and explain why it is your favourite.
8. Who tests Macduff's loyalties?	8. Why might Malcolm be mistrustful?	8. Research some of the superstitions surrounding Macbeth and explain where they originated from.
9. How does Lady Macbeth die?	9. How can we tell that Lady Macbeth feels conflicted at the end of the play?	9. How does the image of blood recur in this play?
10. Who becomes king at the end of the play?	10. Who kills Macbeth and how are they able to?	10. Explain how the witches are able to trick Macbeth in this play.
TOTAL SCORE: /10	TOTAL SCORE: /10	TOTAL SCORE: /10