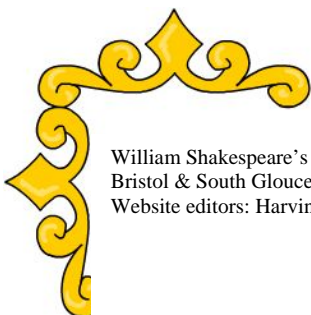


# Macbeth

By William Shakespeare  
Support Materials

Teachers' notes



William Shakespeare's Macbeth: Judith Longstreth  
Bristol & South Gloucestershire Consortium EMAS: June 2010  
Website editors: Harvinder Bilkhu and Yasmin Malik

# Macbeth Support Materials

## Teachers Notes

These materials have been developed to improve access to GCSE coursework on Macbeth. They may be particularly helpful for classes including bilingual learners or pupils with limited literacy skills.

There are 2 parts to this pack:

1. A synopsis of the play
2. A key word list to the plot of the play

## 1. Synopsis of the play

A synopsis of each scene has been written into simple English.

### This can be used:

1. To help understand the story
2. To easily identify in which act and scene specific events take place. This could be helpful in essay writing.
3. To develop through illustrations or into sequencing activities.

## 2. Key Word List

This gives key words from the story of Macbeth in alphabetical order.

### This list can be used:

1. To develop into a bilingual dictionary to support English as an additional language learners.
2. As a spelling reference to support written activities in the class.
3. As a basis for discussion or games. This can be developed into crossword puzzles, word searches, blockbusters etc.

See link below for additional information on Macbeth

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/guides/macbeth/characters/characters.htm>

# 1. Synopsis of the play



## Macbeth

### Act 1

#### Scene 1

Three witches meet out in the wilds. The weather is very bad. It thunders. They agree to meet again before sunset. They will meet Macbeth on the moor.

#### Scene 2

Duncan the king is with his sons Malcolm and Donalbain. They hear about the war. The war is with Sweno: King of Norway, Macdonald: Lord of the Western Isles and Thane of Cawdor. Duncan's generals are Macbeth and Banquo. Macbeth has fought very well. Duncan decides that Macbeth will be the next Thane of Cawdor. (Thane = lord)

#### Scene 3

The witches meet Macbeth and Banquo. The witches make a charm, they see the future and tell Macbeth he will become Thane of Cawdor and king. Banquo is told his heirs will become King. Macbeth hears he has been made Thane of Cawdor.

#### Scene 4

King Duncan says his son Malcolm will become king. He makes him Prince of Cumberland. Malcolm tells him that the old Thane of Cawdor died well and was sorry for being disloyal for what he had done. Macbeth arrives and is praised for his bravery in the war. Duncan says he will visit Macbeth's castle.

#### Scene 5

Lady Macbeth reads a letter from Macbeth. It tells her what the witches said to him. She wants her husband to become king. She is frightened he will be too weak to take the throne. She hears Duncan is coming and decides that he must be killed.

#### Scene 6

Duncan and his followers arrive at Macbeth's castle. They like the castle. Lady Macbeth is very welcoming to Duncan.

#### Scene 7

Macbeth is not very happy about murdering Duncan. He decides not to. Lady Macbeth makes him change his mind. Macbeth likes her strength and agrees to kill Duncan.





## Act II

### Scene 1

Banquo is getting ready for bed with his son Fleance. Banquo is feeling uneasy. He meets Macbeth. He gives Macbeth a diamond for his wife from Duncan. Macbeth tells Banquo to be on his side. Macbeth on his own, waits for the signal from his wife to kill Duncan. He is very scared.

### Scene 2

Lady Macbeth has drugged Duncan's servants. She has drunk some wine. She waits for Macbeth to kill Duncan. He arrives very upset, holding a dagger and covered in blood. She puts the dagger with the servants and takes Macbeth to get washed. She is cross with him. There is a knocking at the door.

### Scene 3

The porter is drunk. He lets MacDuff and Lennox in after they had been knocking at the door a long time. Macbeth comes to see what the noise is. Duncan is found murdered. Lady Macbeth faints. Malcolm and Donalbain get away. Banquo asks for a meeting to discuss what has happened.

### Scene 4

Ross and an old man talk about how awful everything is, both in general and in relation to Duncan's death. Macduff thinks Malcolm and Donalbain killed their father. Macbeth is going to be crowned king.





## **Act III**

### **Scene 1**

Macbeth is living at the Royal Palace. Banquo suspects him of murdering Duncan. Banquo and Macbeth are polite to each other. Then Banquo leaves to go riding. Macbeth arranges for him and his son Fleance to be killed. He asks two men to do this.

### **Scene 2**

Lady Macbeth does not feel happy even though her husband is king. She tries to cheer Macbeth up. They both feel very guilty. Macbeth is obsessed with Banquo. He does not tell his wife Banquo is to be killed, but hints at it.

### **Scene 3**

Banquo is murdered. Fleance gets away.

### **Scene 4**

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are giving a banquet. Macbeth hears of Banquo's murder and Fleance's escape. Macbeth tells his guests he is worried about Banquo not arriving. As soon as he does Banquo's ghost sits in his chair. The ghost appears twice. Macbeth is the only one who can see it. He is very frightened and talks to the ghost. Lady Macbeth is worried that her husband will admit to Duncan's murder. She stops the banquet. Macbeth says he is going to visit the witches again.

### **Scene 5**

The witches are on the heath. Hecate is their ruler is also there. She is angry because they did not talk to her about their dealings with Macbeth. She says that Macbeth will fall from power.

### **Scene 6**

Lennox, a Scottish nobleman thinks about the recent deaths. He suspects Macbeth. Macbeth sends a message to Macduff. He is angry that Macduff was not at the banquet. Macduff has gone to England. He has joined Malcolm against Macbeth.





## Act IV

### Scene 1

The witches make a potion. Macbeth comes to see them. They make three ghosts appear

- an armed head warns Macbeth against Macduff
- a bloody child tells him he cannot be harmed by man born of woman
- a crowned child with a tree says he will be safe till Birnham Wood goes to Dunsinane Hill

Banquo's ghost shows Macbeth eight kings that will come from Banquo's family. The witches disappear. Lennox tells Macbeth that Macduff has gone to England. Macbeth decides to kill Macduff's family.

### Scene 2

In Macduff's castle. Ross tries to tell Lady Macduff why her husband has gone to England. She finds it hard to understand. She is warned that she should escape. Lady Macduff and her young son are murdered.

### Scene 3

Macduff is in the King of England's palace. He tells Malcolm how bad things are in Scotland. He tells Malcolm that Macbeth should be killed. Malcolm agrees to attack Macbeth. Ross brings the news of the death of Macduff's family.





## **Act V**

### **Scene 1**

In Dunsinane castle Lady Macbeth has been sleepwalking. Her doctor and her servant wait to see if she will do it again. Lady Macbeth sleepwalks and talks. She rubs her hands as if trying to clean them of blood and speaks of the deaths of Duncan, Lady Macduff and Banquo. The doctor does not think he can help.

### **Scene 2**

Malcolm's army comes to Scotland. They wait at Birnam wood. Scottish rebels join them. They hear that Macbeth is losing his supporters.

### **Scene 3**

Macbeth is in Dunsinane Castle. The army is all around. He thinks all the time of the witches' prophecies. He is becoming more violent and difficult to live with. The doctor tells Macbeth he cannot help Lady Macbeth who has become mad. Macbeth asks the doctor to cure the country, Scotland instead.

### **Scene 4**

Malcolm's army is at Birnam Wood. The soldiers cut branches from the trees. They use this as a disguise. They march towards Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane.

### **Scene 5**

Macbeth is in his castle. He is getting ready to fight the army. His life feels empty .He hears that Birnam Wood is moving. He realises that all is lost and decides to die fighting.

### **Scene 6**

There is a battle. Macbeth kills young Siward. Macduff and Macbeth fight. Macduff tells him he was born by caesarian. Macduff kills Macbeth and shows his head to the army and Malcolm. Malcolm is crowned King. He promises to bring peace and order to Scotland.





## 2. Key Word List



### Key words to the story of Macbeth

|  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>A</b><br/>           action<br/>           act out<br/>           accuse<br/>           admit<br/>           amazement<br/>           ambition<br/>           ambitious<br/>           Angus<br/>           appear<br/>           appearance<br/>           approach<br/>           arrive<br/>           attack<br/>           attendant<br/>           avoid<br/>           awful<br/>           awkward</p> | <p><b>B</b><br/>           Banquo<br/>           battle<br/>           beware<br/>           Birnham Wood<br/>           bloody<br/>           born<br/>           brew<br/>           bully</p> | <p><b>C</b><br/>           caesarian<br/>           caithness<br/>           capital<br/>           castle<br/>           Cawdor<br/>           chance<br/>           charm<br/>           cheer (up)<br/>           complain<br/>           confidence<br/>           confident<br/>           conjure<br/>           court<br/>           crown</p> | <p><b>D</b><br/>           dagger<br/>           dealings<br/>           decide<br/>           deed<br/>           depose<br/>           descendant<br/>           devastated<br/>           devil<br/>           diamond<br/>           discover<br/>           discuss<br/>           disguise<br/>           disturbed<br/>           Donalbain<br/>           doubt<br/>           dreadful<br/>           dream<br/>           drugged<br/>           Duncan<br/>           Dunsinane</p> | <p><b>E</b><br/>           earl<br/>           entire<br/>           escape<br/>           execute</p>  |
| <p><b>F</b><br/>           faint<br/>           fear<br/>           feast<br/>           figure<br/>           Fleance<br/>           flee (fled)<br/>           follower<br/>           forces<br/>           forest<br/>           furious</p>   | <p><b>G</b><br/>           general (war)<br/>           ghost<br/>           Glamis<br/>           groom<br/>           guest<br/>           guilt<br/>           guilty</p>                     | <p><b>H</b><br/>           happening<br/>           harm<br/>           haunt<br/>           heath<br/>           Hecate<br/>           hell<br/>           henchman<br/>           hint<br/>           honest<br/>           horrible<br/>           horror</p>  | <p><b>I</b><br/>           imagination<br/>           imagine<br/>           innocence<br/>           innocent<br/>           instruct<br/>           instruction<br/>           interrupt<br/>           interruption<br/>           Ireland</p>  | <p><b>J.K.L</b><br/>           key (adj)<br/>           king<br/>           lady-in-waiting<br/>           Lady Macbeth<br/>           Lady Macduff<br/>           lead (v)<br/>           Lennox<br/>           lord</p> |

|  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>M</b><br/> Macbeth<br/> Macduff<br/> Malcolm<br/> Menteith<br/> message<br/> messenger<br/> moor<br/> murder<br/> murderer<br/> mysterious</p> | <p><b>N.O</b><br/> noble<br/> nobleman<br/> offspring<br/> operation<br/> oppose<br/> overwhelm</p> | <p><b>P.Q</b><br/> palace<br/> plan<br/> porter<br/> potion<br/> premature<br/> predict<br/> prediction<br/> preparation<br/> prepare<br/> pressure<br/> pretend<br/> prince<br/> prophecy</p> | <p><b>R</b><br/> ramble<br/> rambling<br/> rebel<br/> rebellion<br/> recent<br/> remind<br/> remove<br/> report<br/> reveal<br/> revenge<br/> rightful<br/> Ross<br/> Rumour</p> | <p><b>S</b><br/> Scotland<br/> Scottish<br/> sergeant<br/> serving-woman<br/> signal<br/> siege<br/> Seyton<br/> Siward<br/> sleep walk<br/> slip away<br/> strangely<br/> surrender<br/> success<br/> successful<br/> supporter<br/> suspect<br/> suspicious</p> |
| <p><b>T</b><br/> terrible<br/> Thane<br/> throne<br/> traitor<br/> troops<br/> trust<br/> tyrant</p>   | <p><b>U</b><br/> unease<br/> uneasiness<br/> uneasy<br/> unnatural<br/> uproar</p>                  | <p><b>V</b><br/> valiantly<br/> vanish<br/> vanquish<br/> vengeance<br/> violent</p>   | <p><b>W.X.Y.Z</b><br/> war<br/> warn<br/> weird<br/> witch<br/> witness<br/> womb<br/> worry<br/> wounded</p>  | <p><b><u>Key words</u></b><br/><br/> <b><u>to plot (not text)</u></b><br/><br/> <b><u>of Macbeth</u></b></p>  |



