

## Macbeth

Macbeth is a play by William Shakespeare. Some of his plays are funny but Macbeth is a sad story. The story takes place in Scotland.

It starts with three witches. They are going to find Macbeth.

Macbeth has a friend called Banquo. They are leaders in the army. They have been fighting two wars. They have won! They are happy. They are going home.

They see the three witches.

‘Macbeth will be Lord of Cawdor!’ says one witch.

‘Macbeth will be king,’ says another, ‘but then Banquo’s children will be kings!’



Macbeth and Banquo do not understand. The witches go away. Macbeth and Banquo meet some men. They have come from the King. They have a message. The King has made Macbeth the Lord of Cawdor! The witches are right!

Macbeth and Banquo go to Macbeth’s home. The King comes too. ‘Kill the King!’ says Macbeth’s wife. She knows what the witches said. Macbeth kills the King. He says somebody else did it. The dead King has two sons. They are called Malcolm and Donalbain. They run away. Macbeth is now the King! The witches are right again!

Macbeth knows the witches were right. He is scared. What if Banquo’s children will be kings? Macbeth makes some men kill Banquo. But Banquo’s son runs away. Macbeth is even more scared. He sees Banquo’s ghost!

Macbeth goes to the three witches.

'Help me!' he says. He hears three more messages.

'Watch out for Macduff!' is message number one. Macbeth is scared.

'You can't be hurt by any man who has been born!' is message number two. Macbeth feels better.

'You are safe until trees move to your castle!' is message three. Macbeth is happy. Trees do not move!

Macduff has run away. He has gone to England. He finds Malcolm.

'Macbeth killed my father!' says Malcolm.

'We will fight Macbeth!' says Macduff. He joins Malcolm's army. They go to fight Macbeth.

Macbeth is still in Scotland. He is in a castle. Macbeth's wife goes mad. She dies. Macbeth is sad. But he knows what the witches said.



'I am still safe,' he thinks.

But then Malcolm and Macduff come. They have an army. Every man is holding a tree branch. The trees are moving to Macbeth's castle!

Macbeth is scared. But he knows no man can hurt him. The witches said so!

There is a big fight. Macbeth and Macduff find each other.

'I can't be hurt by any man who has been born!' says Macbeth.

'I was not born the normal way!' says Macduff.

Macbeth fights Macduff. Macduff kills Macbeth. The witches are right again!

## Macbeth

Put these events in the order that they happen in the story.

- A. Macbeth is killed.
- B. Macbeth and Banquo see the witches.
- C. Macbeth's wife goes mad.
- D. Macbeth kills the king.
- E. Macbeth sees the witches.

Why would Macbeth be worried about Banquo's children becoming kings?

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Why does Macbeth go to the witches for a second time?

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In the whole play the witches say that six things will happen or be true in the future.

1. What is the sixth thing they say?

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2. What happens which shows the sixth thing they say is true?

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Macbeth is a play full of interesting characters. Who do you think is the best or nicest character in the play? Why?

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Who do you think is the worst or meanest character in the play? Why?

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Put these events in the order that they happen in the story.

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| A. Macbeth is killed.                  | 5 |
| B. Macbeth and Banquo see the witches. | 1 |
| C. Macbeth's wife goes mad.            | 4 |
| D. Macbeth kills the king.             | 2 |
| E. Macbeth sees the witches.           | 3 |

Why would Macbeth be worried about Banquo's children becoming kings?

The other things the witches said have come true. If Banquo's children are going to become kings, they will have to get rid of Macbeth and his children.

Why does Macbeth go to the witches for a second time? He needs their help and is worried.

In the whole play the witches say that six things will happen or be true in the future.

1. What is the sixth thing they say? That Macbeth is safe until trees move towards his castle.
2. What happens which shows the sixth thing they say is true? Macduff and Malcolm's army arrive at Macbeth's castle carrying tree branches.

Macbeth is a play full of interesting characters. Who do you think is the best or nicest character in the play? Why? Various answers; must be justified.

Who do you think is the worst or meanest character in the play? Why?

Various answers; must be justified.