

D R A M A

William Shakespeare

Macbeth



William Shakespeare

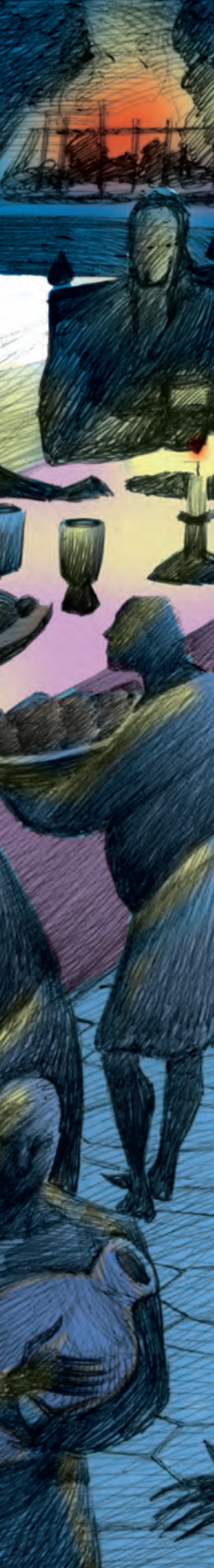
Macbeth

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in compliance with the UNI EN ISO 9001:2000
standards for the activities of 'Design, production,
distribution and sale of publishing products.'
(certificate no. 04.953)

ISBN 978-88-530-0847-3 Book + CD

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

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This glossary explains the many theatrical terms used in this book. When you see a word in **bold** letters go to this glossary.


GLOSSARY	128
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Words explained in the glossary have a number next to them like this.¹




[] Stage directions (not recorded).

Speak. Shakespeare's original words or words very similar to those he used.

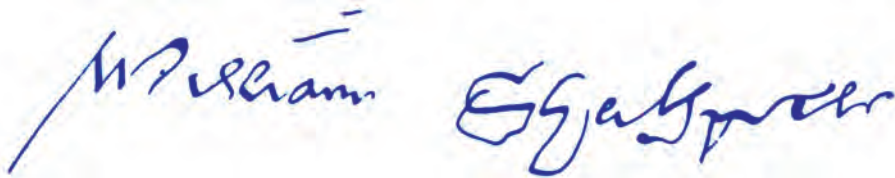
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Macbeth


 The year is 1040. Scotland is a cold, dangerous and isolated place. There are invasions from the Vikings of Norway and wars with the English. There is also a new King, Macbeth.

Macbeth kills the old King, Duncan, to become the Scottish monarch. This is a perfectly normal way to take the throne ¹ in the eleventh century.

Macbeth really existed and you can find his name in history books. But was he like the King in Shakespeare's famous **play**?



Shakespeare


 The year is 1605. England has a new King: the Scottish King James who is now also monarch of England. Shakespeare lives in London and is a very important actor, **director** and writer for the King. He wants to please his new King and writes a Scottish **play**, *Macbeth*.

Shakespeare is England's most famous writer and now, after four hundred years, people still love to go to the theatre to see his **plays**.



The 'Flower' portrait of Shakespeare.
(Royal Shakespeare Theatre Collection,
Stratford.)

Introduction to Drama

 In this book you will read the story of Macbeth, one of Shakespeare's most famous heroes. *Macbeth* is not only a story but a **play** to be acted in the theatre. When you read the **script** try to imagine real people speaking and moving. Think of their voices, their movements and their feelings. There are lots of actors, some of them are very important and they must say a lot, like Macbeth or Lady Macbeth. There are also parts for people who don't have a lot to say and also people who act without speaking, like Macduff's family.

Cast List

Here is the **cast**:



Macbeth, *The Thane of Glamis*



Lady Macbeth,
Macbeth's wife



Duncan, *King of Scotland*



Malcolm, *the King's son*



Donalbain, *the King's son*



3 Witches



Banquo, a Scottish nobleman



Fleance, Banquo's son



Macduff, The Thane of Fife



Lady Macduff, Macduff's wife



Macduff's children



Doctor



Nurse



Angus, a Scottish nobleman



Lennox, a Scottish nobleman



Caithness, a Scottish nobleman



2 Attendants,
servants of the King



2 Murderers



Messenger

PERFORMING ACTIVITIES

The Company

In the theatre there are lots of different jobs to do.



PERFORMING ACTIVITIES



Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Here are some words that you will find in the first two scenes of the play. Match each word to its meaning. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 0 <input type="checkbox"/> witches | A courage |
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> heath | B very dirty |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> battle | C horrible old women who perform magic |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> army | D an area of wild grassy land |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> battlefield | E bad |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> defeat | F a fight between two groups of soldiers |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> bravery | G a lot of soldiers under one leader |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> thane | H quite good |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> foul | I a place where there is a battle |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> filthy | J a Scottish title of nobility |
| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> fair | K beat an enemy |

2 Speaking

Work in pairs or small groups. Look at the pictures on page 11 and answer the questions together to describe the three women.

- What are they wearing?
- Where are they?
- What are they doing?

3 Atmosphere

Complete the text with the words from the box.

sinister happy dark violent blue green grey windy

Many writers use the landscape and the weather to create a certain atmosphere in their stories. A (1), optimistic situation can be reinforced by sunshine, (2) skies, (3) grass and sparkling rivers. A (4) or mysterious atmosphere is created with (5) storms, fog, (6) skies, a (7) heaths, rocky mountains and (8) forests.

Look again at the pictures on page 11.

What type of atmosphere do you think Shakespeare wanted to create at the beginning of this play?

Act I

Scene i – A wild heath near the battlefield.

The witches know that Macbeth will pass by the heath when the battle is finished, and plan to meet each other again at that time.







Fair is foul
and foul is fair.
Hover through the fog
and filthy air.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? If you can't find the information in the text or see it in the pictures, choose 'don't know' (DK).

	T	F	DK
1 Macbeth is fighting in a battle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The witches are near an old castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 On the heath there are farms and villages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The witches decide to meet again later.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 They want to see Macbeth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 They are going to meet Macbeth at the battlefield.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 They want to meet before the battle finishes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 They think that something good is going to happen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Shakespeare's English

'Fair is foul and foul is fair' = good is bad and bad is good. The witches know there is something bad in the air. The witches often use mysterious language. It is not important to understand every word they say, but it is important to feel the magical rhythm and atmosphere the language creates.

Listen to the track again and then in groups of three (like the three witches) say the words together.

Be careful with 'Hover through the fog'; the words are quite fast.

Remember to put your tongue between your teeth when you pronounce 'th'.

Try to keep your three voices together, nobody too fast and nobody too slow.



3 Speaking in different ways

There are lots of different ways of speaking. Complete the sentences by choosing a word from the box. If you don't know the meaning of the words look them up in a dictionary.

shout whisper cackle laugh

- 1 When you don't want other people to hear, you
- 2 When you are angry, you sometimes
- 3 When something is funny, you
- 4 If you are a witch, you

Practise saying this sentence in the following different ways.

'Fair is foul and foul is fair. Fair is foul and foul is fair'.

- A shouting
- B whispering
- C cackling
- D laughing

4 Which words do you usually associate with witches? Circle the words in the box.

beautiful mysterious old bad funny
ugly happy dangerous interesting scary

5 In groups of three witches decide how to say the sentence.

Are you beautiful, mysterious witches who whisper or are you old, scary witches who cackle?

Use your imagination and repeat the words three times. Practise for a few minutes and try to create a supernatural atmosphere.

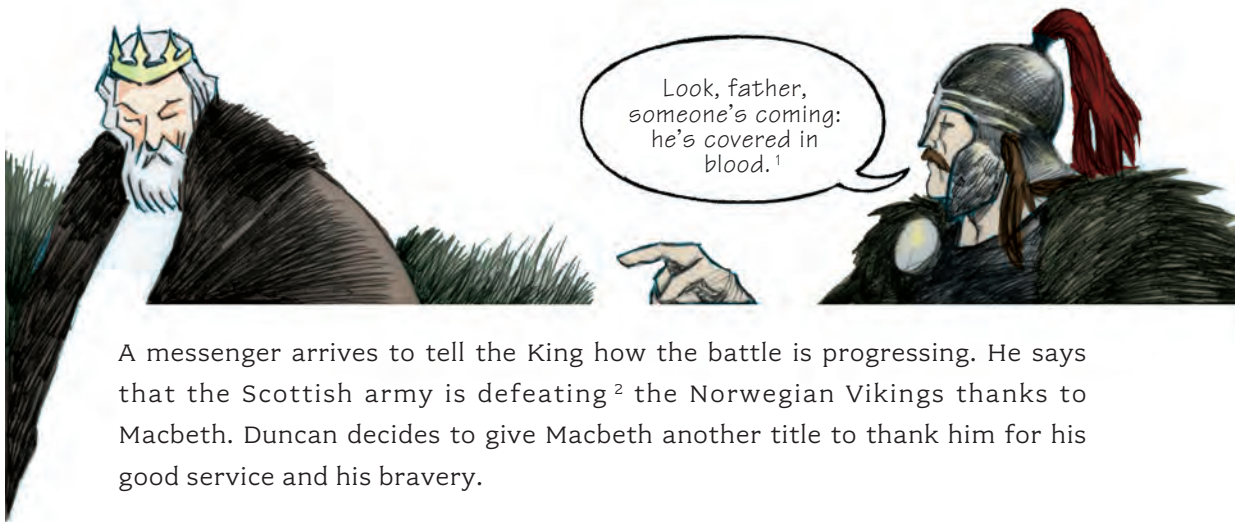
6 Now perform to the rest of the class.

When you listen to the other people in your class close your eyes and imagine the cold, wild heath. Imagine the fog and the three witches dancing around their cauldron.

Which group were the best witches? Why?



Scene ii – The King's camp near the battlefield



A messenger arrives to tell the King how the battle is progressing. He says that the Scottish army is defeating ² the Norwegian Vikings thanks to Macbeth. Duncan decides to give Macbeth another title to thank him for his good service and his bravery.

[King Duncan is with his sons and other attendants off stage. They come out when they hear a trumpet sounding.]

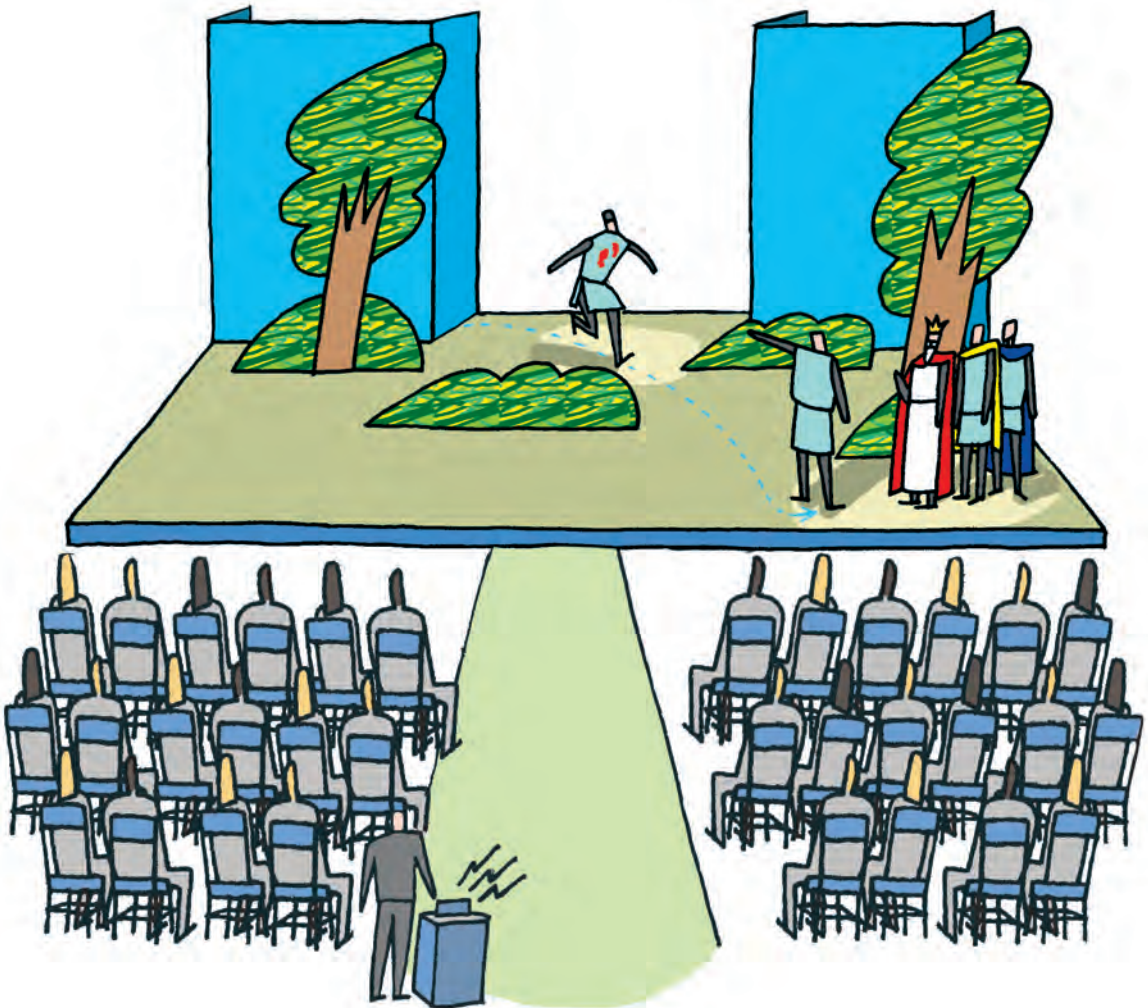




[The messenger exits and the others go back inside the camp.]

Putting on the Show

Act I Scene ii



1 Backstage

This is the space behind the **stage** which the **audience** never see.

The actors who are waiting to go on **stage** must stay very quiet behind the **wings**. This is important for two reasons. Firstly, they must listen to the other actors to know when it's the right moment to enter. Secondly, they must stay silent so the **audience** can hear all the words the actors are saying.

PERFORMING ACTIVITIES

2 Use all the stage

Duncan, his sons and another attendant stand at the front of the **stage** on the right. There is lots of space in the middle for the messenger to enter and the **audience** can see everything very well.

3 Make-up

The messenger comes from a very violent battle and he is probably covered in blood. Use special make-up, face paint or red lipstick to represent the blood on his face, hands and clothes.

4 Sound effects

During this scene you could use a cassette with sounds of a battle. The volume must stay very low because if not, the **audience** will not hear the **actors**.

5 The auditorium

This is the place where the **audience** sit. It's important that everybody can see everything on the **stage**.

Sound and Light Technicians' Notes

Think of the different ways you can create sound effects.

- 1 Use classical or modern music CDs.
- 2 Use musical instruments or other objects to make sounds in the **wings**.
- 3 Before the show, record the sounds you need on a tape or CD. You could record a scream, a door opening, lots of people eating and talking etc. Use films, friends, objects... and especially your imagination.
- 4 Use specially made **sound effects** collections on CD or cassette. You can usually get these from libraries.

