



BBC LIVE LESSONS AND ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Macbeth

Key Objective

Explore the world of the play and get students to create their own version of the witches and the heath.

Classroom Resources

To complete the below activities you will need:

- An open space
- Copies of the worksheets
- Large sheets of paper and sticky notes

Worksheets

1. Plot points
2. Act 1 Scene 3 Extract

Introducing the story of the play

- Organise the pupils into small groups and explain that each of them will work on part of the story of Macbeth.
- Provide each group with one of the plot points from the worksheet.
- Ask them to read their plot point and line of text out loud as a group.
- Invite each group to find a way of illustrating their plot point or line. For example they could create a comic strip, a painting, a line drawing or a collage. Their aim is to convey the feeling of their line or section of story. They can choose to focus on just one image or word or they could try and illustrate the whole thing.
- Encourage each group to share their work and ask pupils to explain the inspiration behind their choices and interpretation.

Exploring the witches

Divide the class into small groups of four or five pupils. Ask them to create a frozen image for the following, allowing them ten seconds to make their freeze frame:

- Three witches
 - As pupils to try out some different ideas for witches, creating different freeze frames. For example: cruel, elegant, giggling, very slow moving, mad scientist, a painting witch, a witch with a pet.
- Provide each group with the line
"A drum, a drum, Macbeth doth come!"
- Ask each group to decide on which interpretation of the witches they thought was most interesting, then encourage them to find a way to build in the line they've been given so that their freeze frame becomes a short scene.
- Allow each group to present back their interpretations and ask pupils to think about which version seems to work best with the line from the text and why.



Exploring a scene from the play: Act 1 Scene 3

- Distribute the edited version of Act 1 Scene 3
- Ask pupils to look at the text and see if they can see any words that describe the witches or hint at what they might be like.
- Ask them to write any of the words or phrases they identify on sticky notes
- Stick all of the notes on a large piece of paper under the heading of **Witches**
- Read out loud all the clues they have found. Which is their favourite? Why?

Repeat the exercise but now ask the students to discover all the words that describe or hint at a description of place and environment.

Ask the students how they imagine the witches and the heath based on the exercise they have just done. Explain how everyone's ideas will be different and that there are no wrong answers.



Designing the Witches and the Heath

- Explain to pupils that they are going to use the clues they found in the text to help them build two different designs: one for the setting of the scene and one for the characters themselves, the witches.
- Allow pupils to decide whether they want to work on the designs for the Witches or the Heath.
- Ask them to create a drawing, painting, written description or cartoon of either the witches or the heath. You can either use the worksheet template we've provided or a blank piece of paper. This activity will form part of the Live Lesson.
- Encourage them to be as specific and detailed as they can, making sure that they use all the clues they found in the scene.
- Encourage pupils to share their work including the words or phrases from the play that inspired their ideas.
- Send in your pupils' work to live.lessons@bbc.co.uk.
- We will use some of the work in the Live Lesson and RSC actors will become some of the different witches your students have designed.

Macbeth Resources

Plot Points

1. Macbeth and Banquo, returning triumphantly from battle, meet the weird sisters on the heath who tell them Macbeth will be King.
"All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter"
2. Lady Macbeth convinces Macbeth to murder Duncan, King of Scotland.
"Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it"
3. Guilt and fear set in after Macbeth murders Duncan.
"Blood will have blood"
4. Macbeth has Banquo murdered. Fleance, Banquo's son, escapes.
'O treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!
5. Banquo's ghost haunts Macbeth at his royal banquet.
"Avaunt, and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee! ... Unreal mockery, hence!"
6. Macbeth seeks out the Weird sisters in order to learn more about the future.
"How now, you secret, black and midnight hags!"
7. Macbeth sends the murderers to kill Macduff and all his family.
"He has killed me, mother!"
8. Lady Macbeth walks in her sleep, racked with guilt over the murder of the King Duncan.
"Out damned spot! Out I say! – Hell is murky! Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him."
9. At last Macbeth and Macduff meet in a fight to the death
"Turn, hellhound, turn!"
10. Macduff brings in Macbeth's head and declares Duncan's son, Malcolm, King of Scotland
"Behold where stands, Th'usurpers cursed head"

Act 1 Scene 3

EDITED

Third Witch A drum, a drum;
Macbeth doth come.

All The weird sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about,
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again, to make up nine.
Peace, the charm's wound up.

Enter MACBETH and BANQUO

Macbeth So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

Banquo How far is't called to Forres? What are these,
So withered and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th'inhabitants o'th'earth,
And yet are on't? – Live you, or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at one her choppy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips; you should be women
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

First Witch All hail,
Macbeth: hail to thee, Thane of Glamis!

Second Witch All hail,
Macbeth: hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!

Third Witch All hail,
Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!

The Witches then tell Banquo that his children will be kings as well.

WITCHES VANISH

Banquo The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,
And these are of them. Whither are they vanished?

Macbeth Into the air, and what seemed corporal,
Melted, as breath into the wind. Would they had stayed.

Banquo

Were such things here as we do speak about?
Or have we eaten on the insane root,
That takes the reason prisoner

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