

# 1: THE WEIRD SISTERS

Adapted by Neil Richards

## SCENE 1: THE HEATH

**FX** Music. Wind howls. Distant thunder.

**NARRATOR** *This is a story of ambition, power and murder. It is the story of a man who would stop at nothing to become King. It is a dark and bloody story...that starts on a wild Scottish heathland where three witches plot and spin their spells...*

SISTER 1 When shall we three meet again?

SISTER 2 In thunder, lightning or in rain!

SISTER 3 When the hurlyburly's done! When the battle's lost and won!

SISTER 1 That will be ere the set of sun.

SISTER 2 Where the place?

SISTER 3 Upon...the heath!

ALL SISTERS There to meet...Macbeth!

**FX** A thunderclap.

## SCENE 2: THE BATTLEFIELD

**NARRATOR** *Macbeth. A Scottish lord. Here he is – not far from those witches, leading the Scottish army against a combined force of invading Norwegians and Scottish rebels...*

**FX** A medieval battle. Swords clash, bodies collide.

ALL For King Duncan and Scotland! Kill the rebels!

**FX** Sword on sword.

**NARRATOR** *The battle is long and hard. Macbeth fights with great valour – and eventually –*

BANQUO Macbeth! My lord...Look! The Norwegians and the rebels run!





MACBETH                                    The battle is won, Banquo.

BANQUO                                    The day is yours.

MACBETH                                    And Scotland's. Come, Banquo! We must find King Duncan - and take him the good news! Sound the drum!

**FX**                                    **A drumbeat goes with them.**

### **SCENE 3: ANOTHER PART OF THE HEATH**

***NARRATOR***                                    ***Back on the heath, the witches wait...***

SISTER 1                                    Sisters - wait - do you hear?

**FX**                                    **A single drum beat, distant, approaching.**

SISTER 2                                    A drum! A drum!

SISTER 3                                    Macbeth doth come!

SISTER 2                                    Quick - we must finish the spell.

SISTER 1                                    Thrice to thine...

SISTER 2                                    And thrice to mine...

SISTER 3                                    Thrice again makes up nine!

ALL SISTERS                                    The spell is done!

***NARRATOR***                                    ***Nearby Macbeth and Banquo pause in the gloom upon the heath...***

MACBETH                                    I have never seen such a day. So foul...yet so fair.

BANQUO                                    Aye!

MACBETH                                    Banquo - look - in the mist –

BANQUO                                    What are they? Men? Women?

MACBETH                                    Are they even human?

**FX**                                    **Both draw their swords.**

BANQUO                                    Who are you? What are you?

MACBETH                                    Speak! If you can!





SISTER 3 All hail, Macbeth!

MACBETH *(TO BANQUO)* How do these creatures know my name?

SISTER 2 All hail, Macbeth! Thane of Cawdor!

MACBETH But I am not Thane of Cawdor...

BANQUO *(TO THE SISTERS)* What do you mean? Can you see the future?

MACBETH What else do you see?

SISTER 3 All hail Macbeth! Thane of Cawdor. And one day - King of Scotland.

MACBETH No! No - that cannot be, get away from me –

BANQUO Macbeth - what are you scared of? Why be afraid of good news? *(TO THE SISTERS)* If you really can see into the future...what happens to me? Tell me!

SISTER 1 Hail, Banquo!

SISTER 2 Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

SISTER 3 Not so happy, yet much happier!

SISTER 1 Your children will be kings.

SISTER 2 But you will never be.

ALL SISTERS So hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

BANQUO They're going...

MACBETH Wait! How can I be Thane of Cawdor? He is still alive! How can I - Macbeth - become king?

BANQUO And how can I be father of kings - but not be a king myself? They're gone!

MACBETH Into thin air!

BANQUO What were they?

MACBETH Witches, for sure. Come, we must find the King...

