

# The Tragedy of Macbeth

## Character List

Match each characters' name to their description.

<b>Macbeth</b>	a noble general whose children, according to the witches' prophecy, will inherit the Scottish throne
<b>Lady Macbeth</b>	the King of Scotland
<b>King Duncan</b>	a Scottish nobleman
<b>Banquo</b>	three mysterious hags who plot mischief using spells and prophecies
<b>Macduff</b>	Banquo's son
<b>Malcolm and Donalbain</b>	a Scottish general (army officer)
<b>Fleance</b>	Macduff's sons
<b>the witches</b>	Macbeth's wife

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## Plot Sequencing

On their return from battle, Macbeth and his friend Banquo are stopped by three witches who tell Macbeth he will be the king.



When they arrive at the palace, King Duncan names Macbeth the new Thane of Cawdor as a reward for his loyal services.

Seeing the witches' prophecy coming true, Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, plot to kill King Duncan so Macbeth can be king.

Macbeth wakes up in the middle of the night and kills Duncan with a dagger while his guards lay nearby in a drunken sleep.

Following the news of Duncan's murder, his sons flee to England for safety and Macbeth is appointed the new King of Scotland.

Macbeth worries that Banquo will suspect him of the murder. He orders for Banquo and his son to be killed, but Fleance escapes.

Lady Macbeth starts to go delirious with guilt. The witches tell Macbeth that none of woman born shall harm him.

Lady Macbeth jumps from the roof and dies. An army led by Macduff and Malcolm arrive to take revenge on Macbeth.

Macbeth is killed and Malcolm takes his rightful place on the throne as the King of Scotland.

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## Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

<b>Q1: How is Macbeth presented at the beginning of the story?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Macbeth is described as "valliant" and strong, as he is not intimidated by any threat.
<b>Discussion:</b>	Discuss how the reader's impression of Macbeth changes throughout the events of the story.
<b>Q2: Find an example of a simile used to describe the witches and explain the effect this has on the reader.</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	"they looked like the walking dead" Describing the witches this way emphasises just how ghastly the witches look, and also creates a gothic and supernatural atmosphere for the rest of the story.
<b>Discussion:</b>	Macbeth sees ghosts later in the story - discuss how far to believe whether the witches are real.
<b>Q3: What does the second witch hail Macbeth as, and how does this prophecy come true?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The witch hails Macbeth as the Thane of Cawdor. When the Thane of Cawdor betrays King Duncan, he names Macbeth as the new Thane of Cawdor.
<b>Q4: What is your first impression of Lady Macbeth?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Lady Macbeth can think of nothing else when her husband tells her his plan to become king. She is greedy for power and for a higher place in society.
<b>Q5: Compare and contrast the characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	Macbeth feels fear after killing Duncan, Lady Macbeth feels guilt. They are both similarly greedy and hungry for power. Macbeth is spontaneous, Lady Macbeth is a planner. Macbeth knows how to become king, but his wife pushes him to actually do it.

<b>Q6: What do you think the vision of the dagger symbolises?</b>	
<b>Discussion:</b>	The dagger dangling in the air could symbolise Macbeth's temptation luring him towards killing Duncan, perhaps led by a greater force. The vision could also symbolise Macbeth's spiral into madness, as he questions himself on whether it is actually there or not.
<b>Q7: How is Malcolm different to Donalbain?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Malcolm is presented as stronger and braver than Donalbain. Although both of Duncan's sons flee to safety after he dies, Malcolm returns to battle Macbeth and in the end is the better choice for King of Scotland.
<b>Q8: Why did Macbeth try to have Macduff killed?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	When he visited the witches an apparition told him to beware of Macduff.
<b>Q9: What does the imaginary blood on Lady Macbeth's hands symbolise?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The blood symbolises her guilt-ridden insanity based on the part she's played in encouraging her husband to commit the murders.
<b>Q10: Why is Macbeth's story considered a tragedy?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Macbeth's greed for power and royalty leads to his own downfall and death.

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## Complete the Prophecies

Fill in the missing words from the witches prophecies below.

“All hail Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis!”

“All hail Macbeth, the Thane of Cawdor.”

“All hail Macbeth, he who shall be king hereafter!”

“Lesser than Macbeth, yet greater.”

“Not so happy, yet much happier.”

“You shall beget kings, though you shall not be one.”

“Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware of Macduff!”

“Be bloody, bold and resolute; laugh to scorn the power of man, for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.”

“Macbeth shall never be vanquished until great Birnam Woods begin to walk against him.”