

Macbeth

Act One

- The witches set the play on a heath and agree to meet when the battle is over
- King Duncan awaits news of the war with his sons and the Thane of Lennox to which the captain arrives covered in blood and delivers an update
- The captain praises Macbeth
- Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches and they hail him as 'Thane of Glamis', 'Thane of Cawdor' and 'King thereafter'
- They also tell Banquo that his descendants will be king but he won't. Then they disappear
- Ross and Angus arrive to tell Macbeth that he is the new Thane of Cawdor; the prophecies have started to come true
- Macbeth immediately thinks about the prophecies and thinks that the only way to become king is to murder Duncan but his thoughts scare him
- Duncan announces that Malcolm will be his heir but Macbeth doesn't like this because now Malcolm stands in his way
- Lady Macbeth thinks that Macbeth is too kind and lacks the necessary ambition to fulfil the witches' prophecy.
- Lady Macbeth takes control by planning the murder of Duncan, she deceives him by welcoming warmly into the castle but telling Macbeth to 'look like the innocent flower but be the serpent underneath it'
- Macbeth does not want to murder Duncan because he knows it is wrong and he thinks that Duncan is a good king and doesn't deserve to die
- Lady Macbeth gets angry at Macbeth's hesitation and calls him a coward which offends Macbeth's manhood. She tells him that they cannot fail if they take courage
- Lady Macbeth intends to frame the guards for the murder by giving them wine until they pass out which will allow Macbeth to sneak past them, kill Duncan and then frame them.