

## Shakespeare Power Hour: Macbeth

Narration: After a battle Macbeth and his best friend Banquo are heading for home when they meet the witches.

### 1. The Witches Meet Macbeth and Banquo (5) Macbeth, Banquo, Witch 1, Witch 2, Witch 3

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

Banquo: What are these?

Macbeth: Speak, if you can: what are you?

1st Witch: All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

2nd Witch: All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

3rd Witch: All hail, Macbeth! Thou shalt be king hereafter!

Banquo: Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair?  
(to witches) I' the name of truth speak then to me.

1st Witch: Hail!

2nd Witch: Hail!

3rd Witch: Hail!

1st Witch: Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2nd Witch: Not so happy, yet much happier.

3rd Witch: Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

1st Witch: Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

Narration: The witches tell Macbeth he will one day be king and that Banquo's children will be kings, though he will not be. Macbeth, excited by the news tells his wife of the prophecy.

### 2. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth Plot (2) Macbeth, Lady Macbeth

Macbeth: My dearest love, Duncan comes here to-night.

Lady Macbeth: And when goes hence?

Macbeth: To-morrow, as he purposes.

Lady Macbeth: O, never shall sun that morrow see!

Macbeth: We will proceed no further in this business:

Lady Macbeth: Was the hope drunk  
Wherein you dress'd yourself? Hath it slept since?

Macbeth: Prithee, peace!  
If we should fail?

Lady Macbeth: We fail!  
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,  
And we'll not fail.

Narration: King Duncan goes to stay with Macbeth for a night, and Lady Macbeth convinces her husband that the best way to fulfill the prophecy is to kill the king as he sleeps.

### **3. The Murder**

#### **(2) Macbeth, Lady Macbeth**

Macbeth: I have done the deed. Didst thou hear a noise?

Lady Macbeth: I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.  
Did you not speak?

Macbeth: When?

Lady Macbeth: Now.

Macbeth: As I descended?

Lady Macbeth: Aye.

Macbeth: Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!  
Macbeth does murder sleep.

Lady Macbeth: Who was it that thus cried? Why?  
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
They must lie there: go carry them; and smear  
The sleepy grooms with blood.

Macbeth: I'll go no more:  
I am afraid to think what I have done;  
Look on't again I dare not.

Narration: The next morning after discovering Duncan's body, his son (Malcom) flees to England because he's afraid both for his life and that he will be blamed. Macbeth frames Duncan's guards for the murder and advances to the throne. Fearing what the witches said to Banquo about his children being kings, Macbeth hires three men to murder his friend. They attack and kill Banquo, but his son Fleance gets away. Meanwhile Macbeth is hosting a banquet to celebrate his coronation.

### **4. Banquo's Ghost Appears**

#### **(4) Ross, Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo (silent)**

Ross: Please't your Highness to grace us with your royal Company.

Macbeth: The table's full.

Ross: Here's a place reserv'd, sir.

Macbeth: Where?

Ross: Here, my good lord.  
*(Macbeth sees the ghost of Banquo)*

Macbeth: Which of you have done this?  
Thou canst not say I did it!  
Never shake thy gory locks at me.

Lady Macbeth: My worthy lord, your noble friends do lack you.

Macbeth: Avaunt! and quit my sight! let the earth hide thee!  
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;  
*(Exit ghost of Banquo)*

Lady Macbeth: I pray you, speak not; he grows worse. Question Enrages him. At once good night. Go at once!

Macbeth: It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood.

Narration: Lady Macbeth makes an excuse to everyone at the banquet that her husband is ill and not to worry about the things he is saying. As soon as everyone leaves Macbeth goes to see the witches, demanding to know more about his future.

#### **5. The Witches Prophecy**

##### **(6) Macbeth, Witch 1, Witch 2, Witch 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Apparition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Apparition**

All Witches: Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2nd Witch: By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes.  
*(Enter Macbeth)*

2nd Apparition: Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!  
Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn  
The power of man, for none of woman born  
Shall harm Macbeth.--

Macbeth: Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?  
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,  
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live!

3rd Apparition: Macbeth shall never vanquished be until  
Great Birnham wood to high Dunsinane hill

Shall come against him.

Macbeth: That will never be  
Yet my heart  
Throbs to know one thing: tell me.—

All Witches: Seek to know no more.

Macbeth: I will be satisfied: deny me this,  
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know:--

All Witches: Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;  
Come like shadows, so depart!

Narration: Satisfied with these new prophecies Macbeth goes back to his castle. Meanwhile Malcom has been in England with another lord named Macduff. Knowing that Macduff wasn't loyal to him, Macbeth sends the murderers to kill his family.

## **6. Macduff and Malcolm Plan a Rebellion**

### **(3) Macduff, Malcolm, Ross**

Macduff: I am not treacherous.

Malcolm: But Macbeth is.  
I think our country sinks beneath the yoke;  
It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash  
Is added to her wounds

Macduff: O Scotland! Scotland!  
O nation miserable,

Malcolm: I put myself to thy direction, and  
What I am truly,  
Is thine, and my poor country's, to command.

(Enter Ross)

Malcolm: Welcome hither!  
What's the newest grief?

Ross: Your castle is surpris'd; your wife and babes  
Savagely slaughter'd.

Malcolm: Merciful heaven!

Macduff: He has no children.  
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam  
At one fell swoop?

Malcolm: Dispute it like a man.

Macduff: I shall do so;  
But I must also feel it as a man:  
--But, bring thou this fiend of Scotland and myself;  
Within my sword's length if he 'scape,

Heaven forgive him too!

Narration: With battle on the horizon we find that Lady Macbeth has gone mad with guilt. She seems to think that her hands are still stained with Duncan's blood as she sleepwalks through the castle.

## 7. Out Damned Spot

### (3) Gentlewoman, Doctor, Lady Macbeth

Gentlewoman: Lo you, here she comes!

Doctor: You see, her eyes are open.

Gentlewoman: Aye, but their  
Sense is shut.

Lady Macbeth: Yet here's a spot.  
Out, damned spot!  
--Yet who would have thought the old man  
To have so much blood in him.

Doctor: Do you mark that?

Lady Macbeth: What, will these hands ne'er be clean?  
Here's the smell of the  
blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia  
Will not sweeten this little hand.

Doctor: This disease is beyond my practice.

Lady Macbeth: To bed, to bed!

Narration: Later Lady Macbeth jumps off tower and dies. Meanwhile Macbeth is comforting himself with the impossibility of the other prophecies coming true.

## 8. The Castle is Attacked

### (3) Seyton, Macbeth, Messenger

Seyton: The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macbeth: Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more:

(Enter Messenger) Thy story quickly.

Messenger: I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,  
The wood began to move.

Macbeth: 'Fear not, till Birnam wood  
Do come to Dunsinane;' and now a wood  
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!  
I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun,

Blow, wind! come, wrack!  
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

Narration: Malcom's soldiers cut down branches from the trees of Birnam wood to conceal themselves as they march for the castle. Macbeth begins to panic and prepares for battle. He fights for a long time, and beats every opponent. Then he meets Macduff.

## **9. Macbeth vs Macduff**

### **(2) Macduff, Macbeth**

Macduff: Turn, hell-hound, turn!

Macbeth: Of all men else I have avoided thee:

Macduff: I have no words,--  
My voice is in my sword.

(They fight.)

Macbeth: I bear a charmed life, which must not yield  
To one of woman born.

Macduff: Despair thy charm;  
Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripp'd.

Macbeth: Accursed be that tongue that tells me  
I'll not fight with thee.

Macduff: Then yield thee, coward,

Macbeth: I will not yield, lay on, Macduff;

Narration: Macduff kills Macbeth and frees Scotland from his tyranny and Malcom takes his rightful place on the throne.