

Macbeth is a play with dark themes including murder and the supernatural.
The following visual story contains images some people might find upsetting.

MACBETH

VISUAL STORY

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

In partnership with
BORN TO BE
The Deutsche Bank youth
engagement programme



PLAYING
SHAKESPEARE
WITH DEUTSCHE BANK

THE CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY



This is **Macbeth**.



This is **Lady Macbeth**.



These are **The three witches**.



This is **Duncan**.



This is **Banquo**.



This is **Malcolm**.



This is **Ross**.



This is **Lady Macduff**.



This is the **Porter**.



This is **Fleance**.



This is **Macduff**.



WARNING!

The next page features images of **the Murderers** in Clown Masks
– Please skip to page 9 if you don't want to see.



These are **The Murderers** in clown masks.

SHOW NOTES

These are notes of things that may happen during the show, or that you may want to think about for the play.

- Actors will move through the Yard to get to the stage.
- All fighting is pretend fighting, and no one will get hurt.
- The Globe is an open air theatre, so you may here outside noises like aeroplanes.
- During the play there is music.
- There are some parts of the show audience members might find startling or distressing. They are listed here with their approximate timings from the beginning of the performance:
- 1 min – A knife is pulled from stomach by Third Witch
- 27 mins – Confetti Cannons are fired from the balcony.
- 30 mins – Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have bloody daggers.
- 52 mins – The murderers arrive wearing clown masks. They murder Banquo.
- 55 mins – Banquo's ghost arrives. He is frightening to look at and bloody.
- 1hr – A bloody doll head is ripped off a doll. A baby doll is pulled from the stomach of a suckling pig. Blood is poured on table
- 1 hr 7 mins – The murderers appear again in clown masks. They kill Lady Macduff and her baby.
- 1hr 23 mins – Camouflage nets are moved through the audience.
- 1 hr 25 mins – Macbeth & Macduff fight.
- 1 hr 27 mins – Macduff comes on with bloody heart in his hands.

SYNOPSIS

This is a detailed description of the events in the play.

An unsettled figure walks through the audience. The figure steps onto the Stage, and reaches for the pile of dead bodies. It becomes clear that two of the bodies and the figure are in fact **the three witches** within the play. **The three witches** agree to gather on the heath before sunset where they will meet a man called **Macbeth**, they then vanish into the 'fog and filthy air'.

An injured Captain crawls onto the stage, covered in blood. **Duncan**, the King of Scotland, enters and is surrounded by his **thanes** (a thane is a nobleman like a duke). The king asks the injured Captain how the battle against the allied powers of Norway and Ireland is progressing. He reports that the rebel Macdonald was doing well before **Macbeth**, a Scottish Captain, fought him and beheaded him. **Duncan** is informed that **Macbeth** has also conquered the Norwegian army, which included the Thane of Cawdor, a traitor. Overjoyed at the news, **Duncan** promises to give Cawdor's title to **Macbeth**.

Macbeth and his fellow Captain, **Banquo**, walk through the crowd and onto the stage. They are startled by **the witches**, who call Macbeth Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor and 'King hereafter'. They also promise that **Banquo** will be a father of kings but will never be one himself. **Macbeth** begs them to tell him more, but the three figures disappear. The thane of Ross enters, bringing news of Macbeth's new title as the Thane of Cawdor. **Macbeth** begins to imagine the murderous act he would have to commit to become King.

Macbeth and **Banquo** are heartily thanked by **Duncan**, for their victories on the battlefield. Duncan's eldest son, **Malcolm**, is named the Prince of Cumberland, a position which **Macbeth** notes he must 'o'erleap' to become King. **Lady Macbeth** reads a letter from her husband that describes his encounter with **the witches** and his new title. She worries that he is too kind to murder **Duncan** and decides to persuade him to do it in person. A messenger brings news that the King will stay at the Macbeths' castle that night. **Lady Macbeth** calls upon spirits for strength to carry out the murder. Her husband enters and she tries to convince him to kill the king.

Duncan and his attendants arrive at the Macbeths' castle, greeted by a hospitable **Lady Macbeth**. Together they celebrate their latest war victory. **Macbeth** exits to consider his options, at first settled on committing the murder but gradually becoming less certain. **Lady Macbeth** comes to find him and persuades him to commit the murder. Later that evening, **Macbeth** meets with **Banquo** and his son, **Fleance**. **Banquo** says that he dreamt of **the witches**. After Macbeth's guests go to bed, he hallucinates and sees a dagger hovering in the air. A bell rings and **Macbeth** wonders if it is the sound of heaven calling **Duncan**.

Lady Macbeth and **Macbeth**, both panic-stricken, meet in the darkness of the castle. **Macbeth**, with daggers in his hands, tells **Lady Macbeth** that he has murdered **Duncan**. **Lady Macbeth** tells him off for taking the bloody daggers out of the room. She goes and puts the daggers with Duncan's sleeping bodyguards. The castle's **porter** is awoken by a knocking at the gate. It is the noblemen **Macduff** and **Lenox** who have arrived to speak with the King. **Macduff** goes to wake up **Duncan** but returns and tells everyone the king has been murdered.

Everyone in the castle gathers and **Macbeth** announces that he has slain the two guards. He has blamed them for the murder.

Lady Macbeth faints to take attention away from **Macbeth**.

Duncan's son, **Malcolm**, fearing that the murderer is close, runs away to England. This means that **Macbeth** will become the king.

Macbeth, now King, invites **Banquo** to a feast he is holding that evening. **Banquo** tells the audience his suspicions about his friend. **Macbeth** admits that he cannot stop thinking about **the witches'** predictions that Banquo's son would be king. He instructs **two murderers** to kill **Banquo** and his son, **Fleance**.

The murderers ambush **Banquo** and **Fleance** on their way to the **castle**. They kill **Banquo** but his son manages to run away. The banquet commences. One of the murderers appears at the door to tell **Macbeth** the news that they have killed **Banquo** and that **Fleance** got away. **Banquo's ghost** enters and sits at the table. Terrified, **Macbeth** talks about the vision. The banquet ends early as Macbeth's guests fear for his health.

Macbeth is informed that **Macduff** has joined **Malcolm** in England, and the pair are gathering troops to attack **Macbeth**.

Macbeth meets **the witches** and demands they answer his questions. **The witches** call up spirits to do so. The first spirit is an **armed head**, telling him to beware **Macduff**. The second, a **bloody child**, tells him no-one born of a woman can harm him. The third, a **crowned child**, tells him that he will never be conquered until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane. **Lady Macduff** and her children are killed by Macbeth's **murderers**.

Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking. She repeatedly makes the motion of washing hands, claiming there is blood on them. The English army comes to Scotland to attack Macbeth's castle. **Macbeth** puts on his armour. The English forces arrive at Birnam wood, and **Malcolm** instructs the troops to use branches as a disguise to approach the castle. **Macbeth** is told that the queen has killed herself. A servant tells **Macbeth** that he has witnessed Birnam wood moving. This is because the servant has mistaken the disguised soldiers for trees. **Macduff** enters the castle and finds **Macbeth**, but **Macbeth** is initially unafraid because he does not think he can be harmed by anyone born of a woman. However, **Macduff** reveals he was not born naturally, but delivered by caesarean (He was cut out of his mother's belly). The pair fight and **Macbeth** is killed. **Macduff** then emerges grasping Macbeth's heart, proclaiming **Malcolm** as the new King of Scotland. **Malcolm** invites all his allies to see him crowned at Scone.

The three witches step onto the stage, they once again question, "when shall we three meet again?"

SONIC STORY

