

## Macbeth: 10 Key Moments

Print off these 10 key plot points, cut them up, mix them up, and then reassemble them into the right order.

**Soldiers Macbeth and Banquo return to Scotland from war. They meet The Weird Sisters (The Witches) on the Heath. Three prophecies are made: Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor, Macbeth will be King, Banquo's sons will be Kings.**

"So withered and so wild in their attire  
They look not like th'inhabitants of the earth" (Banquo)

"All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter" (Witch)

**Macbeth writes to his wife to tell her of the prophecies and she quickly starts to think of ways to persuade him to pursue this promise of Kingship. When he arrives home, King Duncan makes him Thane of Cawdor. The first prophecy has come true! Macbeth is emboldened by this and spurred on by his wife to kill King Duncan, so the next prophecy can be realised.**

"...I feel now/ The future in th'instant" (Lady Macbeth)

"Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under't" (Lady Macbeth)

"I dare do all that may become a man  
Who dares do more is none." (Macbeth)

**With the King murdered, Duncan's children, Malcom and Donalbain flee Scotland for safety. Meanwhile, Macbeth worries about the third prophecy coming true and orders that Banquo and his son, Fleance, be killed. Fleance escapes, but Banquo is murdered.**

"We have scorch'd the snake, not killed it" (Macbeth)

"It is concluded Banquo, thy soul's flight  
If it find heaven, must find it out tonight" (Macbeth)

**Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are king and queen. At a Banquet with his Lords, Macbeth is haunted by the ghost of Banquo. His wife tries to smooth over proceedings but it's clear Macbeth's ambitious nature is at war with his conscience.**

"Never shake thy gory locks at me!...Avaunt, and quit my sight!" (Macbeth)

"Are you a man?" (Lady Macbeth)

**Macbeth is distressed that Macduff did not turn up to his feast and begins to plot his revenge. He becomes completely distant from his wife, now not sharing any of his murderous plans with her.**

"Nought's had, all's spent/ Where our desire is got without content" (Lady Macbeth)

"We are yet but young in deed" (Macbeth)

**Macbeth heads back to the heath to find the witches, who tell him the only person he needs to be afraid of is Macduff. They prophecy that no one of woman born can harm him and he will not be defeated until Birnam Wood moves. Macbeth leaves the encounter knowing he is invincible.**

"Macbeth shall never vanquished be until  
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill  
shall come against him" (Apparition conjured by the witches)

**While Macduff is in England trying to see if Malcom will fight with him against Macbeth, Macbeth arranges for Lady Macduff and Macduff's children to be killed.**

"O Scotland, Scotland!...With an untitled tyrant bloody-sceptred" (Macduff)

"My wife kill'd too...All my pretty ones?" (Macduff)

"...Macbeth  
Is ripe for shaking" (Malcom)

**Lady Macbeth kills herself from guilt and madness and Macbeth laments her death.**

“Who would have thought the old man to have so much blood in him?” (Lady Macbeth)

“She should have died hereafter/ ...Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow /Creeps in this petty pace from day to day” (Macbeth)

**Macduff and Malcom invade Scotland and close in on Macbeth’s castle by cutting down branches from Birnam Wood to use as camouflage. It looks to Macbeth like the wood is moving. Another of the witches’ prophecies has come true!**

“As I did stand my watch upon the hill,  
I look’d toward Birnam, and anon methought  
The wood began to move.” (Messenger)

**Macduff reveals he was born by caesarean section. The final prophecy has come true. Macduff kills Macbeth. Scotland is free and Malcom, Duncan’s son, is hailed as the new King.**

“...Macduff was from his mother’s womb  
Untimely ripp’d” (Macduff)

“Accursed be the tongue that tells me so,  
For it hath cow’d my better part of man” (Macbeth)