

MACBETH

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PLAYING
SHAKESPEARE
WITH DEUTSCHE BANK



The Porter's Speech

In Act 2, Scene 3, a character called the Porter lists behaviours that he (and the audience) finds frustrating and imagines sending people who do them through the gates of hell.

The Porter's speech was (we presume) funny and topical in 1606, but the references are very context specific and meaningless to a modern audience.

This made us wonder:

What behaviours do our audience of UK students in 2025 find frustrating?

What behaviours are frustrating enough to earn someone a place in hell?

We want to find out!

The competition

Your job:

- Our 2025 production will bring Macbeth into a modern warfare setting. We want you to update the Porter's speech for 2025 by replacing the people/behaviours he is criticising with people/behaviours from 2025 that **you** think are enough to earn someone a place in hell!
- The winning version will then be performed on the Globe stage in every performance of this year's *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Macbeth*, to over 30,000 students.

PORTER: Here's a farmer that hanged himself on th' expectation of plenty. Come in time! Have napkins enough about you; here you'll sweat for 't.

(Knock.)

Knock, knock! Who's there, in th' other devil's name? Faith, here's an equivocator that could swear in both the scales against either scale, who committed treason enough for God's sake yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in, equivocator.

(Knock.)

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's an English tailor come hither for stealing out of a French hose. Come in, tailor. Here you may roast your goose. *(Knock.)*

Act II, Scene 3: The Porter's Speech

Success Criteria:

1. Think of three frustrating behaviours (and people who do them) to replace the farmer, the equivocator, and the English tailor.
2. They must be behaving in ways that the modern character of the Porter would want to criticise in 2024/5. In this production, he will be a security guard in a military compound.
3. Replace all the highlighted words with your chosen people and their crimes.
4. Keep the structure and rhythm of the speech as much as you can.

PORTER: Here's a farmer that hanged himself on th' expectation of plenty. Come in time! Have napkins enough about you; here you'll sweat for 't.

(Knock.)

Knock, knock! Who's there, in th' other devil's name? Faith, here's an equivocator that could swear in both the scales against either scale, who committed treason enough for God's sake yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in, equivocator.

(Knock.)

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's an English tailor come hither for stealing out of a French hose. Come in, tailor. Here you may roast your goose. *(Knock.)*

See the next slide for a translation.

Act II, Scene 3: Translation of the Porter's speech

PORTER:

Oh, here's a farmer who hoarded goods (hoping to sell them at a high price), and then hanged himself when their price went down. Come right in. Make sure you have enough handkerchiefs, you're going to get sweaty in here.

[Knocking inside]

Knock, knock! Who's there, in the other devil's name? By God, here's a smooth talker, who could swear under oath to both sides of an argument at the same time. Although he committed treason for God's sake, he couldn't talk his way into heaven. Come on in, smooth talker.

[Knocking inside]

Knock, knock, knock! Who's this? Well, here's an English tailor sent to hell for skimping on fabric for some fancy clothes: come on in, tailor; it's hot enough to hear your iron in here!