

William Shakespeare's
Machbeth
Level 4



Easy Reading Old World Literature

Macbeth

LEVEL 4

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~Deborah A. Denson

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Macbeth

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About the Author

William Shakespeare was born in 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, a city in England. His mother's name was Mary Arden. His father, John, was a wealthy businessman. There is very little known about William Shakespeare's early life. It is believed that he attended a local grammar school where the students learned Latin, public speaking, and religion. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582. They had three children, Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. In 1584, Shakespeare left Stratford and went to London.

By 1592, Shakespeare was a well-known actor and playwright. In 1599, Shakespeare, along with others, opened up the Globe Theatre. In the early 1600's, Shakespeare's company worked under King James I and became known as the King's Men. In 1608, the King's Men acquired the Blackfriars Theatre, which became their winter home. In 1613, the Globe was destroyed in a fire and was rebuilt a year later. However, by that time, Shakespeare had retired from writing. Shakespeare died in his hometown of Stratford on April 23, 1616.

Interdisciplinary Teaching Suggestions

Language Arts:

Be a Critic: Create a classroom critic's corner. Break students up into ten groups. Allow each group to read a chapter before the class and prepare a critique just like the movies!

Create a Diary based on Shakespeare's Characters: Students must choose a character from the story. After reading each chapter, students should write a diary entry on their character's feelings based on the events in the story.

Math:

Create a Bar Graph: What professions were available in Shakespeare's time? What were the average salaries paid? Create a bar graph.

Create a Pie Chart: Research the population of London and the distribution of wealth during Shakespeare's time. Create a pie chart.

Science:

Health Issues during Shakespeare's Time: Create a newspaper for Shakespeare's London. Report on the average lifespan of men and women. In 1592 the Plague killed 15,000 people in London. Report on the cause and effect of the Plague. Report on other health concerns for the people of the time.

Social Studies:

Compare Queens and Kings: Shakespeare wrote and performed plays for Queen Elizabeth I and then King James I. How were the monarchies of the Queen and King different?

General:

Create an Interdisciplinary Classroom Museum of Artifacts from Shakespeare's Story: Research, create, and detail the purpose and significance of each student's artifact in relation to the story.

Create a Classroom Bulletin Board: Break up students into small groups. Make each group responsible for an area of the bulletin board that pertains to the story. Create a story cluster describing literary elements from the story, for example setting, characters, and plot.

WORDS USED

Story 1	Story 2	Story 3	Story 4	Story 5
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KEY WORDS

battle	castle	cruel	ashamed	enemy
punish	chosen	duty	dangerous	kingdom
soldier	future	guest	deed	peace
sword	human	protect	nature	royal
thunder	messenger	servant	porter	suspect
witch	success	wine	pray	yesterday

NECESSARY WORDS

bleeding	betray	dagger	amen	advice
foul	evil	false	devil	descendants
hail	innocent	guilty	distract	disguise
leader	kindness	host	God	soul
rebel	loyal	justice	grave	
	tempt	torch	horror	
			murder	
			vague	

Story 6	Story 7	Story 8	Story 9	Story 10
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KEY WORDS

ghost	death	comfort	crazy	avoid
health	disgrace	control	disease	banner
perfect	lord	defend	medicine	creep
spy	riddles	honest	obey	screen
stomach	ruin	savage	threaten	victory
stool	wicked	stranger	weary	wound

NECESSARY WORDS

rank	charm	grief	armor	bough
revenge	double	liar	conscience	idiot
sickness	helmet	rumors	dwarf	
	security	traitor	memory	
	toil			
	vision			

The Battle for Scotland

PREPARATION

Key Words

battle	(bat 1)	a fight between armies <i>This <u>battle</u> will decide which army owns the land.</i>
punish	(pun ish)	to cause pain or make someone feel bad for doing something wrong <i>The judge wanted to <u>punish</u> the thief for stealing the money from the children.</i>
soldier	(söl jər)	someone who fights in an army <i>The new <u>soldier</u> was afraid to fight in his first battle.</i>
sword	(sôrd)	a long, sharp blade used for fighting <i>The soldier struck the knight with his <u>sword</u>.</i>
thunder	(thun dər)	the loud noise that follows lightning, caused by electricity in the air <i>Mary thought she heard <u>thunder</u>, but it was only a passing train.</i>
witch	(wich)	a woman who uses magic <i>The children were frightened when the <u>witch</u> flew on stage.</i>

The Battle for Scotland

Necessary Words

bleeding	(blēd'ing)	losing blood through a break in the skin <i>After Paul stepped on a nail, he stopped the <u>bleeding</u> with a piece of cloth.</i>
foul	(foul)	1. dirty, smelly <i>We washed the boat to get rid of the <u>foul</u> smell of the fish.</i> 2. bad <i>The thief's <u>foul</u> plan was stopped when the officer caught him sneaking around.</i>
hail	(hāl)	to welcome with great respect <i>"<u>Hail</u>, Captain!" the sailors shouted when the captain arrived.</i>
leader	(lē'dər)	the person who decides what happens in a group <i>Fran was chosen to be the <u>leader</u> of the team.</i>
rebel	(reb'əl)	to go against the people in charge <i>The <u>rebel</u> workers did not come to work.</i>

People

Banquo	a good soldier serving the king, and he is Macbeth's best friend
Duncan	the King of Scotland
Macbeth	the Thane of Glamis, a strong soldier, and part of the king's family (a thane is a man who receives land from a king and must serve the king in return)

Places

Cawdor	an area in northeast Scotland that belonged to the Thane of Cawdor before he betrayed King Duncan
Glamis	an area near Cawdor that belongs to Macbeth's family
Norway	a country to the north of, and across the sea from Scotland
Scotland	a country to the north of England that shares the same island

The Battle for Scotland



As the bloody battle raged on, the three witches wait.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that the three witches wanted to

- a. start a storm.
- b. watch the battle.
- c. fight in the battle.
- d. meet Macbeth.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read on to find out what the witches tell Macbeth.

The Battle for Scotland

“When shall we meet again?” the first witch asked her sisters. Thunder shook the ground under their feet. Light flashed across the dark clouds above. In the field next to them, thousands of men and horses were pressed together in a bloody battle.

“We will meet after the battle’s lost and won,” said the second witch. The witches were not curious about which army would win. They were only interested in one man.

The third witch scratched at the thick hair growing on her face. “After the battle we will meet Macbeth,” she said.

“My cat is calling,” said the first witch.

“I hear my frog,” said the second witch.

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair,” the witches sang. “Fly through the fog and dirty air.”

As the wind carried the witches away, the King of Scotland listened to a soldier in a camp below. King Duncan had silver hair and a kind face. The soldier had just come from the battle and was covered with blood. He told how the rebel army had been winning over the king’s forces. Then brave Macbeth, one of the king’s thanes, cut his way through the rebel soldiers with his sword. He did not stop until he faced the rebel leader. With one blow of his sword, Macbeth killed him. He cut off the leader’s head.

“Good, Macbeth!” said the king.

The rebel soldiers were not the only ones fighting Duncan. The King of Norway wanted part of Scotland too. After Macbeth killed the rebel leader, the King of Norway sent his soldiers into battle. Macbeth had to fight even harder.

As they carried the bleeding soldier away, Duncan saw another of his thanes coming off the field. The thane told how Macbeth had been fighting the King of Norway, sword against sword. Macbeth won. Now the King of Norway was waiting for Duncan so he could gather his dead and leave for home.

Duncan had to worry about one of his own thanes first. The Thane of Cawdor had turned against Scotland to help Norway. “I trusted and loved him,” Duncan told his men, “but now I have to punish him. He can’t be allowed to live. Macbeth will be the new Thane of Cawdor. Find Macbeth and tell him.”

The three witches would find Macbeth before the king’s men would. They waited for him on a lonely path. The sound of thunder rolled through the rocky hills around them.

“Where have you been sister?” asked the first witch.

“Killing pigs,” answered the second witch.

The third witch said, “A sailor’s wife was eating nuts. She chased me away when I told her to give them to me. Her husband is the master of a ship, and I will punish her by punishing him. I will sail after him...”

“We’ll make the winds push you faster,” her sisters offered.

The third witch added, “Storms will toss his ship so he won’t be able to sleep day or night...” The third witch stopped talking when she heard the beat of a drum. “A drum, a drum! Macbeth will come!”

The drum could be heard between the crashes of thunder. Macbeth and his friend Banquo were on their way to the king’s palace.

“I have never seen a day so

foul and fair,” said Macbeth.

Suddenly, Banquo cried, “What are these?” as they came upon the three witches. “They are all dried up and wear strange clothing. They might be women, but their beards make me think they can’t be!”

“Speak, if you can. What are you?” asked Macbeth.

“All hail, Macbeth, Thane of Glamis!” cried the first witch.

“All hail, Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor!” cried the second.

“All hail, Macbeth, who shall be the King of Scotland!” cried the third.

“Good sir, why do you seem to fear things that sound so good?” Banquo asked Macbeth. Then Banquo turned to the witches. “You gave Macbeth such great hope, that he can’t speak. If you can look into the seeds of time and say which seed will grow, and which will not, speak then to me.”

“Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!” the witches cried.

“You are not as great as Macbeth, yet you are greater!” the first witch said to Banquo.

“You will not be given as much, yet you will have more,” added the second.

“You will not be King, yet you will be the father of kings!” said the third.

After the witches finished speaking to Banquo, Macbeth wanted to know more about himself. “Your story isn’t complete,” Macbeth told them. “After my father died I became the Thane of Glamis. The Thane of Cawdor is alive, but you call me by his name. How will I become Thane of Cawdor? How will I become King? Where did you get these strange ideas?” As Macbeth asked his questions, the witches disappeared.

The Battle for Scotland

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Preview Answer:
d. meet Macbeth.

Choose the best answer.

1. In the beginning of the battle, who was winning?
 - a. Scotland
 - b. The rebel army
 - c. The three witches
 - d. Norway
2. When Macbeth cut his way through the rebel army, he killed
 - a. the Thane of Glamis.
 - b. the King of Norway.
 - c. the rebel leader.
 - d. King Duncan.
3. Who turned against Scotland to help Norway?
 - a. The Thane of Cawdor
 - b. The Thane of Glamis
 - c. The Thane of Scotland
 - d. The Thane of Norway
4. Banquo wasn't sure if the witches were women because
 - a. they were bloody.
 - b. it was dark and stormy.
 - c. they were too far away.
 - d. they had beards.
5. The witches told Macbeth that one day he would
 - a. be the King of Scotland.
 - b. be the King of Norway.
 - c. kill the King of Scotland.
 - d. kill the King of Norway.
6. How did Macbeth feel about what the witches said would happen?
 - a. He was excited.
 - b. He seemed happy.
 - c. He seemed afraid.
 - d. He was angry.
7. The witches told Banquo that one day he would be
 - a. killed in battle.
 - b. the King of Norway.
 - c. the King of Scotland.
 - d. the father of kings.
8. Macbeth became the Thane of Glamis because
 - a. he killed the first Thane.
 - b. the first Thane ran away.
 - c. his father died.
 - d. the king surprised him.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "The Promises of Witches."
 - b. "Killing Pigs."
 - c. "The Thane Dies."
 - d. "The King is Killed."
10. This story is mainly about
 - a. the king being killed.
 - b. three witches telling what will happen to Macbeth and Banquo.
 - c. a soldier killed in battle.
 - d. life in Scotland.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

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The Battle for Scotland

VOCABULARY CHECK

battle	punish	soldier	sword	thunder	witch
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct word from the box above.

1. We ran into the house after we heard the roar of _____.
2. It was a long and bloody _____.
3. The _____ cried when he learned his friend died in battle.
4. I was a _____ for Halloween last year.
5. My mother had to _____ my brother because he wasn't behaving.
6. Long ago, knights would use a _____ to fight in battle.

II. Word Search

All the words from the box above are hidden in the puzzle below. They may be written from left to right, up and down, or on an angle. As you find each word, put a circle around it. One word, that is not a key word, has been done for you.

B	L	U	E	K	C	S	H
B	P	T	L	L	B	O	D
V	U	S	T	O	A	L	R
B	N	O	T	H	T	D	O
M	I	K	H	C	T	I	W
G	S	I	B	V	L	E	S
T	H	U	N	D	E	R	U
D	H	U	M	D	Z	X	T

Check your answers with the key on page 69.

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