

KANSAS THEATRE WORKS Episode guide for

MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

PART ONE

THE WITCHES

Act 1 Scene 1

As a storm rages Three Witches appear. They agree to meet on the heath when the battle is over. There they will meet with Macbeth.

BRAVE MACBETH

Act 1 Scene 2

A wounded captain tells King Duncan about the bravery of Macbeth and Banquo in battle. Ross arrives with further news of victory. The Norwegian king is pleading for peace. The king discovers the traitor, Thane of Cawdor, has been captured. Duncan sentences Cawdor death and tells Ross to give Macbeth the new title Thane of Cawdor.

THE PROPHECY

Act 1 Scene 3

The witches meet Macbeth and tell him he will be Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor and king. Angus and Ross arrive and tell Macbeth he is now Thane of Cawdor.

THE RIGHTFUL HEIR

Act 1 Scene 4

Duncan announces his son Malcolm is next in line for the throne.

A PLAN IS HATCHED

Act 1 Scene 5

Lady Macbeth reads a letter from Macbeth. She calls on the spirits to make her capable of murder. Macbeth arrives home and they conspire to kill Duncan so Macbeth can take the throne.

WELCOME THE KING

Act 1 Scene 6

King Duncan and others arrive at Macbeth's castle and are welcomed by Lady Macbeth

PARTNERS IN CRIME

Act 1 Scene 7

Macbeth has doubts about killing Duncan, but Lady Macbeth reassures him and tells him she would kill her own child and that Macbeth is not a "man"

"HEAT OPPRESSED BRAIN"

Act 2 Scene 1

Banquo has dreamed about the witches and is thinking about the prophecies. Macbeth sees a vision of a bloody dagger, but we do not know if this is caused by magic or hallucination.

THE MURDER OF KING DUNCAN

Act 2 Scene 2

Lady Macbeth waits for her husband to return from the murder. When he arrives, he is in a state of shock and has foolishly brought the bloody daggers with him. End of Part One.

PART TWO

“CHAOS HAS A NEW MASTERPIECE”

Act 2 Scene 3

The Porter greets Macduff and Lennox, who have come to meet with Duncan. Upon discovering the murder of the king, alarms are sounded to wake up the castle. Macbeth explains that he killed the guards out of 'fury'. Macduff questions why Macbeth did this. While Macbeth tries to explain his reasons, Lady Macbeth faints. Banquo swears to investigate the murder, as do the other thanes. Fearing for their lives, Duncan's sons plan to escape. Malcolm goes to England and Donalbain heads to Ireland.

MACBETH IS MADE KING OF SCOTLAND

Act 2 Scene 4

Ross and an Old Man discuss how there have been a series of unnatural things happening since Duncan's murder. Macduff reports that Macbeth has been named king and will not attend his coronation but rather head home to Fife instead.

MACBETH PLANS MORE MURDER

Act 3 Scene 1

Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth's rapid ascension to the throne. Lady Macbeth and Macbeth invite Banquo to a banquet that evening. Banquo and his son Fleance are going out riding that afternoon, but Banquo promises to return in time for the banquet. When Banquo goes, Macbeth reveals his fears that Banquo's children will become future kings. He hires two murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance.

PARANOIA, BIG DESTROYER

Act 3 Scene 2

Macbeth tells his wife how he is plagued by fears about potential threats to his throne. Lady Macbeth encourages him to put on a brave face for their guests tonight. Macbeth does not tell her about his planned murder of Banquo.

THE MURDER OF BANQUO

Act 3 Scene 3

The murderers surprise attack Banquo and Fleance. Banquo is murdered but Fleance manages to escape.

BANQUO'S GHOST

Act 3 Scene 4

Guests arrive for the banquet. Macbeth is informed by Seyton that Banquo is dead but Fleance has escaped. As the banquet begins, the ghost of Banquo appears at the table. Macbeth is visibly shaken but Lady Macbeth calms the guests by saying that it is a momentary fit. Lady Macbeth chastises Macbeth for his outcry. The ghost then goes away but, as Macbeth makes a toast to Banquo, it reappears, and he lashes out against the ghost. It vanishes again but Lady Macbeth tells the guests to leave. Macbeth decides that he will visit the witches again the next day.

PART THREE

NONE OF WOMAN BORN

Act 4 Scene 1

Macbeth visits the witches and they show him apparitions. One warns him of MacDuff. The second tells him that, 'none of woman born shall harm Macbeth'. And finally, a third tells him he will never be defeated 'until Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come against him'. Reassured but still doubtful, Macbeth still asks if Banquo's descendants will ever reign. The witches resist him but he demands that they answer. An apparition of eight kings appears following Banquo's ghost. The witches disappear as Lennox arrives with word that Macduff has fled to England. Privately, Macbeth vows to kill all of Macduff's family including 'his wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls that trace him in his line'.

THE MURDER OF MACDUFF'S FAMILY

Act 4 Scene 2

Lady Macduff receives news that her husband has fled to England. Lady Macduff tells her son that his father is dead and was a traitor, but he teases her and knows it is not true. The murderers arrive seeking Macduff and, finding him gone, they kill his wife and family.

MACDUFF MEETS WITH MALCOLM

Act 4 Scene 3

In England, Macduff tells Malcolm of how Scotland is suffering under Macbeth. Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty by saying that if Malcolm became king, he would be worse than Macbeth. Malcolm claims that he will bring chaos on Scotland were he to rule, Macduff condemns him. Seeing Macduff's response, Malcolm's suspicions are gone, and he tells Macduff that he is in fact devoted to his country and people. Malcolm is ready with Old Siward and 10,000 men to invade Scotland. Ross arrives to tell Macduff the terrible news about the death of his wife and children. Malcolm comforts Macduff.

PART FOUR

LADY MACBETH SLEEPWALKS

Act 5 Scene 1

A doctor and a gentlewoman watch Lady Macbeth sleepwalk. As she walks in, she rubs her hands and speaks in her sleep. She mentions the murders of Duncan, Banquo and Lady Macduff. The doctor advises that the gentlewoman continues to watch her.

THE ENGLISH FORCES ARE APPROACHING

Act 5 Scene 2

The thanes discuss how the English forces are approaching, led by Malcolm, Siward and Macduff. Macbeth is in Dunsinane, but his men are rising up against him, some calling him mad.

MACBETH DISMISSES THE APPROACHING ARMY

Act 5 Scene 3

Macbeth dismisses all reports of an oncoming attack. He reassures himself with the witches' prophecies. The doctor tells Macbeth that he cannot help Lady Macbeth.

BIRNAM WOOD CAMOFLAUGE

Act 5 Scene 4

The Scottish lords gather with Malcolm, Macduff and their army. Malcolm tells them to cut down boughs of the trees in Birnam Wood to use as camouflage.

TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW

Act 5 Scene 5

Macbeth continues to stand his ground against the siege. He is told that Lady Macbeth is dead. Macbeth reflects on the pointless nature of life being only 'a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing'. Seyton informs Macbeth that he has seen Birnam Wood moving towards Dunsinane hill. Macbeth vows he will die fighting.

MALCOLM'S ARMY ARRIVES AT DUNSINANE

Act 5 Scene 6

Malcolm's army have arrived outside the castle. They throw down their camouflaging branches to reveal themselves.

MACBETH KILLS YOUNG SIWARD

Act 5 Scene 7

Macbeth declares that he will fight, but remains reassured by the prophecy that he cannot be defeated by anyone born of a woman. Young Siward challenges Macbeth and Macbeth kills him. Macduff enters the castle, seeking vengeance on Macbeth for the murder of his family.

MACDUFF KILLS MACBETH

Act 5 Scene 8

Macduff confronts Macbeth and they fight. When Macbeth claims he cannot be defeated because he has a 'charmed life', Macduff reveals that he was 'from his mother's womb untimely ripped'. The witches' prophecy comes true as Macduff kills Macbeth.

MALCOLM BECOMES THE KING OF SCOTLAND

Act 5 Scene 8

Macduff arrives with Macbeth's severed head. He hails Malcolm the new King of Scotland. Malcolm honors those who have fought alongside him against the tyranny of 'this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen'. He invites them to see him crowned.