



Macbeth

Macbeth is one Shakespeare's most famous tragedies. Written in 1606 it is also one of his bloodiest plays. It is set in Scotland.

Macbeth, Thane of Glamis, is one of King Duncan's best generals.

Returning from a battle Macbeth and Banquo meet three witches. The witches tell them a prophecy: Macbeth

will be Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, and King; Banquo will be the father of kings in the future. Both men laugh about the prophecies until Duncan gives Macbeth the title of Thane of Cawdor as a prize for his service to the king. When Lady Macbeth is told about the prophecy, she has an idea—she wants her husband to take his fate into his own hands and make himself king by eliminating Duncan.

Macbeth does not want to kill Duncan and Lady Macbeth says he is a coward. But, when Duncan visits the castle, the opportunity is too good to ignore. Pushed by his wife, they plan Duncan's death.

Lady Macbeth gets Duncan's guards drunk; Macbeth enters the king's room with his dagger, kills the king, and plants the dagger on the drunken guards. When the body is discovered, Macbeth kills the guards in order to silence them. Malcolm and Donalbain, Duncan's sons, both leave Scotland.

To everyone else, it appears that the sons have been the conspirators, and Macbeth becomes King of Scotland, thus fulfilling the witches' prophecy. But Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth because of what the witches said.

Macbeth knows of Banquo's suspicions and the reasons for them; he is also worried about the second prophecy concerning Banquo's sons. As he prepares for his coronation, Macbeth hires assassins to kill Banquo and his son. Banquo is murdered that night, but his son escapes. During the coronation feast the ghost of Banquo torments Macbeth. Macduff, another Scottish lord, leaves Scotland because he too is suspicious of Macbeth. When Macbeth hears of Macduff's escape, he takes revenge by having Macduff's family killed. Eventually, Macduff joins Malcolm in England to organize an army against Macbeth.

The witches give Macbeth another prophecy as he prepares for Malcolm's attack. He will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane, and he will not die by the hand of any man born of a woman.

Macbeth is confident of his victory. But Lady Macbeth slowly goes crazy as a result of killing Duncan. She walks in her sleep, trying to clean an imaginary spot of blood from her hand. As the English armies approach, Macbeth learns that many of his lords are deserting him, and that Lady Macbeth has died. On top of this, a messenger brings news that Malcolm's army is approaching under the cover of branches, which they have cut from the trees of Birnam Wood. Resigned to his fate, Macbeth goes to war. But nobody can kill Macbeth. Finally, Macduff meets him on the field of battle. Macbeth laughs, telling him of the witches' prophecy: no man born of a woman can kill him. But Macduff responds that, he was "from my mother's womb untimely ripp'd," meaning he was delivered by a Caesarian (not technically born of a woman). The play ends with the death of Macbeth; Macduff meets the others holding Macbeth's head. Malcolm is crowned King of Scotland, restoring his father's line to the throne.

A. Answer the questions in your own words.

- 1 What news do the witches give Macbeth and Banquo at the beginning of the play?
- 2 What is Lady Macbeth's reaction when hearing about the prophecies? Why?
- 3 Why do the Macbeth's kill the king and guards?

- 4 How do people interpret the king's sons escape?
- 5 Why is Banquo murdered?
- 6 What does it mean the second prophecy?
- 7 Why does Lady Macbeth go crazy?
- 8 What's Macbeth's attitude on the battlefield?
- 9 Why?
- 10 What happens in the end?

B. Find synonyms in the text that mean the same as:

- a. destiny
- b. getting rid of
- c. chance
- d. inebriated
- e. accomplishing, achieving
- f. abandoning

The Play by Face2face

Scene 1: The Witches

Welcome to Duncan's Burgers, the best burger joint in town! Mick and Benny are playing around when three mysterious homeless people come to them. The homeless people tell Mick three prophecies: one, Mick will become the manager of Duncan's Burgers; two, he will become the owner of Duncan's burgers and three, to beware of the Duncan clown!

Scene 2: Employee of the Month

Beth, Mick's wife, is cleaning the restaurant. She is a cleaning lady who dreams of becoming the Chief Cashier. One thing stands in her way: Duncan, the owner of Duncan's Burgers. Duncan comes to the restaurant to host the Employee of the Month competition. Mick and Benny compete in a burger-flipping contest. Mick flips the best burger so he wins the competition. Beth is not impressed. She tells Mick her idea to kill Benny so Mick can become the manager.

Scene Three: Benny's Murder

Beth convinces Mick to kill Benny so he can become the manager. Benny comes in and tells Mick to get to work. Mick starts to flip the burgers and Benny is telling him to work faster. Mick goes crazy and kills Benny. Beth comes in to help clear away the body. Duncan comes in looking for Benny. Mick says that Benny has left forever. Desperate to fill Benny's position, Duncan makes Mick the manager of the restaurant.

Scene Four: Duffy's Dismissal

Finally, Mick is the manager of Duncan's Burgers. He wants to promote Beth to Chief Cashier but Duffy stands in the way. He calls in Duffy to help with the health inspection. When the Inspector finds dirt, bugs and rats in the kitchen he accuses Duffy and fires her. Now that Duffy is gone, Beth is Chief Cashier. They celebrate.

Scene Five: Benny's Ghost

Mick is guilty about killing Benny. He begins to hear voices and sees Benny's ghost! He thinks he is going crazy. Beth calms him down and reassures him. She wants more power and more money. Beth tells Mick to kill Duncan so they can become owners of the restaurant. When Duncan comes to collect his money Mick kills him.

Scene Six: McBeth's

Mick and Beth are now proud owners of their new restaurant McBeth's. Now Beth feels guilty and is beginning to go crazy. She sees her hands stained with "ketchup" and can't seem to clean it off. Beth goes crazy and runs out of the restaurant. When Duffy returns to the restaurant to accuse them of murder Beth confesses and runs out. Duffy calls the police. Will Mick finally pay for his crimes?

Students should be familiar with the following vocabulary before the show.

**TO WORK HOMELESS BOSS TO EAT HAMBURGER
MONEY TO SELL TO FLIP MANAGER OWNER
EMPLOYEE WIN WINNER LOSER POWER
TO CLEAN RICH DISGUSTING PROMOTION COMPETITION
IDEA KILL AMBITION DEAD PICKLES FRIEND
PALE RESPONSIBILITY TO CELEBRATE INSPECT
FRENCH FRIES REPLACEMENT
TO CLEAN TO FIRE CASHIER SURPRISE STRESS
HELP RELAX WORRIED GHOST KETCHUP
TO CALM DOWN CRAZY GREASY
MONEY TO HAVE PLAN SUCCESS TO TAKE
TO SHARE JOB BUTCHER SURROUNDED**

Questions 2b worked on....

1. Compare Shakespeare's version with Face 2 Face's version of Macbeth.. What similarities and differences can you find between the two plays?
2. Here are some elements or characters in Shakespeare's version:
The witches
Macbeth
Lady Macbeth
Banquo
MacDuff
Birnam Wood
What are their equivalents in Face 2 Face's version?
3. In Shakespeare's time it was believed that kings had a divine right to the throne. Is this still true today?
4. What is "fast-food"? What are the differences with home-cooking? (Taste, ingredients, time)
5. What are the disadvantages and advantages of
 - a. fast-food? Do you like fast-food? Why? Why not? Is it healthy? What do you think would happen if you ate every day in a fast-food restaurant?
 - b. the fast-food industry? Do you agree that multi-national corporations such as McDonald's are responsible for globalization? How does this type of industry affect the environment?
 - c. jobs in fast-food restaurants? Have you worked in a fast-food restaurant? Do you know someone who does? What are the conditions?