

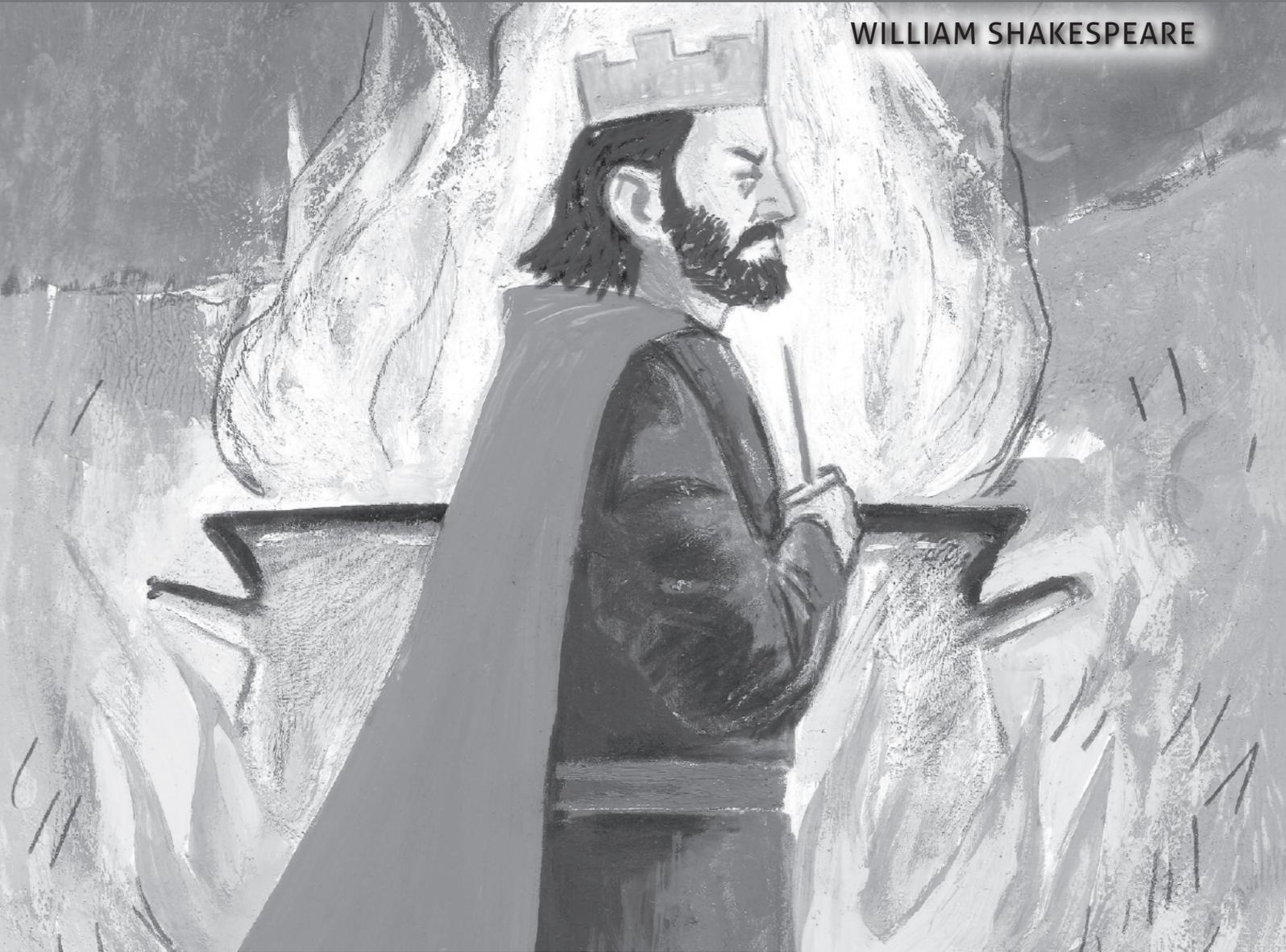
SIMPLIFIED READERS

**A1**

LEVEL 1

# Macbeth

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



# WORKSHEETS

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**ABOUT THE PLAY**

*Macbeth* is one of William Shakespeare's most popular plays, and it is his shortest tragedy. It has been performed on stage since his time. It was written between 1603 and 1607, during the reign of King James I of England. Throughout the centuries, the roles of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have been played by the most famous actors and actresses of the times. The play has been adapted to films, television, opera, novels, comics and other kinds of media. It is about the tragedy of an ambitious Scottish nobleman who commits several murders in order to become the king. Shakespeare

based some characters in the play, such as Macbeth and Duncan, on records of real people in a history book written in 1587. For example, the character of King Duncan in the play is based on King Duncan I, who ruled Scotland from 1034 to 1040. And the character Macbeth was roughly based on a Scottish king named Macbeth, who ruled from 1040 until his death in 1057. However, the events in the play are different from those that happened in real history. Macbeth was first printed in the First Folio of 1623. This is a collection of 36 plays by Shakespeare and the only source for the text of the play.

**SUMMARY**

The Scottish army is fighting to defend the country against the Norwegian invasion. Macbeth, who fights bravely in the Scottish army, and his friend Banquo, another brave soldier in the army, are returning from a victorious battle against the Norwegians. On their way, they come across three witches. The witches tell Macbeth that he will be the general of the King's army and that one day he will be the king of Scotland. They also tell Banquo that his sons and grandsons will be kings in the future.

As Macbeth and Banquo continue walking, they meet two noblemen sent from King Duncan's camp in Forres. They tell Macbeth that King Duncan wants to see him and reward him for his success and bravery. When the four men arrive at the King's camp, Duncan names Macbeth the general of his army. The King then decides to spend a night at Macbeth's castle. Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth receives a letter from her husband about his new position and the witches' words about his future. She is very excited and decides to help Macbeth become the king.

Shortly after Macbeth comes home, King Duncan arrives together with his sons Malcolm and Donalbain. Lady Macbeth has a plan to kill Duncan that night, while he is sleeping. She gives the king's servants a lot of wine to make them drunk. And according to her plan, Macbeth enters the King's room and kills him with the daggers of the two servants who are sleeping. At a very early hour in the morning, a nobleman named Macduff arrives at the castle to wake the King up and finds him dead in his bed and the two servants asleep. Then, Macbeth hurriedly goes to the King's room and kills the drunken servants. Duncan's sons are afraid of being killed too, so they escape. But this makes everyone suspect that they ordered the servants to murder Duncan.

Macbeth becomes the King of Scotland, but he is always very worried. He remembers what the witches said about Banquo's sons, so he hires two men to kill Banquo and his son. Banquo gets killed, but his son manages to escape. At the banquet that night, Macbeth sees the ghost of Banquo and talks to him, which makes everyone think he is mad. Macbeth becomes more and more worried, thinking that he has enemies. He hears that both Malcolm and Macduff are in England and are getting ready for a war against him. Eventually, Macbeth becomes a ruthless king and Lady Macbeth suffers madness due to her guilt.

Macbeth finds the three witches to learn more about his future. He finds out that he will be safe until a forest marches toward his castle and until a man who is not born of a woman attacks him. He also learns that Macduff is very dangerous for him. So, Macbeth has Macduff's wife and children killed. During this time, Malcolm, with the help of Macduff, arranges a big army to fight against Macbeth. When Macbeth learns this, he goes to his remote castle with his soldiers and prepares them for a battle. When the army, led by Malcolm, arrives and is marching towards Macbeth's castle, Macduff is with them too. The soldiers hold tree branches in front of them so as not to be seen by Macbeth's soldiers.

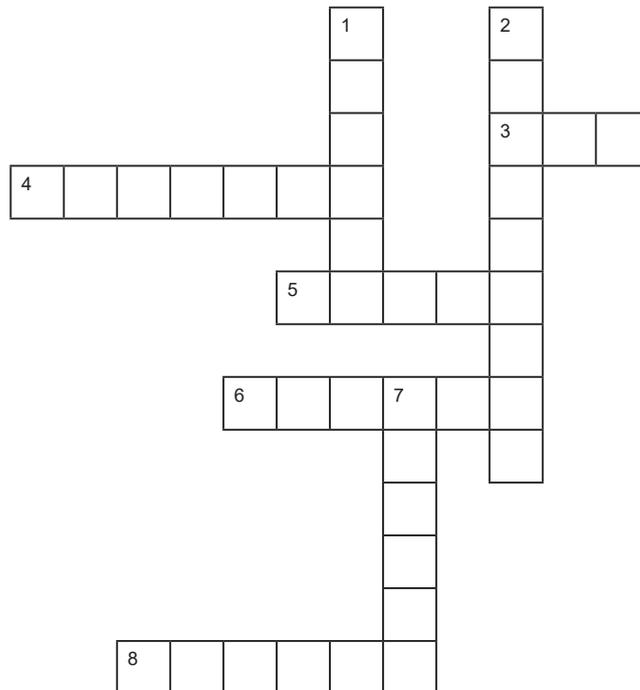
Macbeth is horrified when he is told that the trees are moving and approaching his castle. Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth is found dead. When Malcolm's army attacks the castle, Macbeth also fights against them. However, his soldiers lose the battle, and Macbeth is left alone on the battlefield. Macduff finds him and kills him with his sword. Then he brings Macbeth's head to the castle. All the lords and noblemen declare Malcolm the King of Scotland.

**Discuss before you begin reading:**

- 1 Have you read or watched any of Shakespeare's plays? When? What did you think of them?
- 2 Which do you like, tragedies or comedies? What is the difference between a tragedy and a comedy? Which has a happy ending usually?

A Word Search

Do this puzzle. These words appear in the play.



Across

- 3 This person tries secretly to get information about a country for another country.
- 4 This is a formal dinner for many people to celebrate a special event.
- 5 Kings and queens wear this on their heads.
- 6 This large building with high, thick walls is built for protection against the enemy.
- 8 Kings, queens and their family live in this big building.

Down

- 1 This person's job is to let people enter a building.
- 2 This person's job is to deliver messages.
- 7 Kings and queens sit on this special chair.

B Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (a-g).

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 knight ____   | a a man who ruled over a large area of land in the Middle Ages                  |
| 2 warrior ____  | b a member of the highest social class in a country (in the past)               |
| 3 nobleman ____ | c the title people use when they speak to or about a king or queen              |
| 4 lord ____     | d a soldier from a high social class who wore a suit of armour and rode a horse |
| 5 royal ____    | e important people who live with and work for a queen or king in the palace     |
| 6 Highness ____ | f a member of the queen's or king's family                                      |
| 7 court ____    | g a man who fights in battles, with courage and good fighting skills            |

**A** When you are reading Chapter 2, study this chart. Put the numbers of the right information next to the name of the character. You may need to use the same number for more than one character.

| Angus _____                                  | Banquo _____   | Donalbain _____   | Macduff _____  | Malcolm _____   | Ross _____  |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>1</b><br>becomes the Prince of Cumberland | <b>2</b><br>King Duncan's cousin                         | <b>3</b><br>a brave soldier in the King's army              | <b>4</b><br>decides to go to Ireland when Duncan is killed | <b>5</b><br>walks to Forres with Macbeth after winning a battle | <b>6</b><br>fights in the battle along with Macbeth     |
| <b>7</b><br>finds the dead body of the King  | <b>8</b><br>decides to get help from the King of England | <b>9</b><br>hears the witches' words about Macbeth's future | <b>10</b><br>will be the next king after Duncan            | <b>11</b><br>Comes from Forres to take Macbeth to the King      | <b>12</b><br>comes to Macbeth's castle to wake the King |
| <b>13</b><br>feels happy for Macbeth         | <b>14</b><br>Duncan's younger son                        | <b>15</b><br>Macbeth's best friend                          | <b>16</b><br>a nobleman                                    | <b>17</b><br>will be the father of kings                        | <b>18</b><br>Duncan's eldest son                        |

**B** When you have read up to page 29, guess what happens at the end of Chapter 3 and then in Chapter 4. (Do not read beyond page 29!)

| Banquo  | ✓ or X |
|---|--------|
| tells everyone that Macbeth is the murderer of the King |        |
| gets killed near Macbeth's castle by two men            |        |
| is attacked by two men in the forest but escapes        |        |
| leaves Scotland with his son                            |        |

| Macduff                                      | ✓ or X |
|--|--------|
| is put in prison upon Macbeth's order        |        |
| gets killed by Macbeth's men                 |        |
| is in England and joins Malcolm and his army |        |
| is sent to a faraway island by Macbeth       |        |

| Malcolm  | ✓ or X |
|--|--------|
| attempts to murder Macbeth to get his father's revenge |        |
| is put in prison by Macbeth                            |        |
| gets killed in England by Macbeth's men                |        |
| prepares an army to fight against Macbeth              |        |

**A Write the names (or titles).**

1 six main characters

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 five characters who we don't know much about

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 a character that is mentioned several times but does not appear in the text

\_\_\_\_\_

4 characters that appear in the play but their names are not important (at least five)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 two characters who disappear after the murder of their fathers (No information is given afterwards.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B Compare Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Then, discuss and explain why.**

| <u>Tick the boxes.</u> | more ambitious | more ruthless | feels more guilt | stronger | greedier | more courageous | better planner | more dominant | more clever |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Macbeth</b>         |                |               |                  |          |          |                 |                |               |             |
| <b>Lady Macbeth</b>    |                |               |                  |          |          |                 |                |               |             |

**C Who is described in the boxes, Banquo, Macduff or Malcolm? Write the names in the correct boxes. You can write two names when necessary.**

|   |
|---|
| 1 He is scared of being killed at first and escapes, but later he fights successfully against Macbeth. _____    |
| 2 He is loyal to his country. He wants to free the Scottish people from the cruelty of King Macbeth. _____      |
| 3 He suspects that Macbeth is the murderer of the King, but he is ignorant of Macbeth's plan to kill him. _____ |
| 4 He is a strong man who can control his feelings, even when he hears the saddest news. _____                   |
| 5 He is happy about what the witches tell him, but he doesn't try to make them come true. _____                 |

|   |
|---|
| 6 He earns King Edward's trust and support. _____                               |
| 7 He is a brave soldier like Macbeth, but he is not ambitious. _____            |
| 8 He leaves his family alone in order to save his country. _____                |
| 9 Fighting for his country is more important for him than being the king. _____ |
| 10 He takes revenge on Macbeth in the end. _____                                |

**A Write the names. Who says these and to whom or about who? (6x3=18 pts)**

- 1 "But soon he will be a dead man. And Scotland will have a new king. Nothing can stop my evil plan."  
\_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 "You must be in your grave. Leave me alone now."  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 "I am not your murderer! Stop looking at me! And don't shake your bloody head."  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 "We are very close to the castle now. Throw down the branches and draw your swords!"  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 "Do you have any drugs for pushing the English army out of Scotland?"  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 "I have nothing to say to you! My sword will talk to you now."  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**B Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F). (10x2=20 pts)**

- \_\_\_ 1 After Macbeth kills King Duncan, Lady Macbeth wants him to kill the two servants too.
- \_\_\_ 2 Macbeth does not tell Lady Macbeth that he is going to kill Banquo.
- \_\_\_ 3 During his visit to the witches, Macbeth sees a vision of eight kings and Banquo's ghost.
- \_\_\_ 4 Macbeth is not afraid of Macduff, because he is not in Scotland anymore.
- \_\_\_ 5 Macbeth's soldiers are very loyal to him. They would prefer to die rather than join the enemy army.
- \_\_\_ 6 Macbeth's lords are not loyal to him. They support Malcolm and Macduff.
- \_\_\_ 7 Macbeth learns that his wife is dead just when the enemy is approaching the castle.
- \_\_\_ 8 Macbeth faints when he hears that his wife is dead.
- \_\_\_ 9 Malcolm attacks Macbeth's castle with an army of 10,000 soldiers
- \_\_\_ 10 Lady Macbeth has a role in all of the murders.

**C When does Macbeth say these? Match the sentences (1-4) with the events (a-d). (4x3=12 pts)**

- 1 "I will die when the forest marches to my castle. And now, it is happening."
  - 2 "Whose hands are these? Can all the water in the oceans wash this blood from my hands?"
  - 3 "Every day, we are getting closer to death. Life is nothing more than a dream. It is like a tale."
  - 4 "I am trapped here. I can't run away. I must fight. I am not afraid of anything."
- a after murdering Duncan  
b when the enemy army arrives  
c when he loses the battle and is alone on the battlefield  
d when his wife is dead

**D Mark the correct answers. (10x3=30 pts)**

- 1 Who did Duncan name as the next king of Scotland?  
a Banquo      b Macbeth      c Malcolm
- 2 Which do you think is true about Lady Macbeth's death?  
a She kills herself.  
b Macbeth's men kill her.  
c The doctor gives her a bottle of poison.
- 3 Why is Macbeth hopeful for staying as the king?  
a The Scottish people love him.  
b Trees cannot march.  
c His soldiers are very brave and faithful.
- 4 Which is true about Macduff?  
a His biggest enemy is Malcolm.  
b He supports Malcolm and joins his army.  
c He is afraid that Malcolm will be the next king.
- 5 The doctor fears that Lady Macbeth - - - - .  
a can kill someone      b can be killed  
c can kill herself
- 6 King Macbeth goes to the forest and searches for the three witches - - - - .  
a alone      b with Lady Macbeth  
c with a servant
- 7 Who does Lady Macbeth seem to be talking to while she walks in her sleep?  
a Macbeth      b the court maid      c Duncan
- 8 What does Macbeth do when Malcolm's army arrives and the battle starts?  
a He stays inside his castle.  
b He goes out to the battlefield and fights.  
c He hides somewhere near the castle.
- 9 Who beheads Macbeth at the end?  
a Ross      b Malcolm      c Macduff
- 10 Who becomes the King of Scotland at the end?  
a Donalbain      b Macduff      c Malcolm

**E Match the two halves of the sentences (1-5 with a-e). (5x4=20 pts)**

- 1 Macbeth gets horrified when he enters the banquet room because ... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 After Macbeth becomes the king, he wants to see the three witches again because ... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 Macduff doesn't join the battle because ... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Macduff wants to kill Macbeth himself because ... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Macbeth doesn't think Macduff can kill him because... \_\_\_\_\_
- a ... he has a personal reason for it.  
b ... he wants to find Macbeth and kill him.  
c ... he thinks he sees Banquo sitting at the table.  
d ... the witches said that no mother's son can hurt him.  
e ... he wants to find out who his enemies are.

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