

# THE PLOT OF MACBETH

- King Duncan has just been victorious over the forces of Norway and the disloyal Thane of Cawdor. In the battle, Macbeth fought extremely well.
- While lost in the heath, Macbeth and Banquo encounter supernatural witches who predict that Macbeth will first become Thane of Cawdor and then King. They also predict that Banquo's sons will become King and then vanish. Macbeth learns he has been made Thane of Cawdor and starts to scheme
- Duncan names his son Malcolm heir to the throne and announces he is visiting Macbeth's castle
- Lady Macbeth receives a letter that Macbeth has heard the prediction about him becoming King. They plot to murder King Duncan that night while he stays as a guest at their castle.
- Despite some misgivings, they carry out their plan.
- Macduff arrives the next morning unexpectedly finds the body, becoming immediately suspicious of Macbeth. He decides to fly to England with Malcolm.
- Macbeth becomes King and decides to murder Banquo and his son Fleance.
- The murderer is unable to complete the job, as Fleance escapes.
- Macbeth and Lady Macbeth hold a banquet that the ghost of Banquo visits twice. Macbeth decides to visit the witches for more advice.
- **The witches tell Macbeth three things:**
  - 1) **Beware of Macduff**
  - 2) **Macbeth can not be harmed by anyone born of a woman**
  - 3) **Macbeth will never lose a battle until Burnham Wood marches on his palace.**
- Lennox tells Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England, and Macbeth decides to murder Macduff's family in revenge.
- Macduff hears that Macbeth has murdered his wife and children and resolves to march on Macbeth immediately.
- Lady Macbeth becomes obsessed with imaginary blood she sees on her hand.
- Macbeth is feeling arrogant when he hears that there is an attack coming.
- Macduff plans to have soldiers disguise themselves by holding a branch of a tree up above their head to make it look like the wood is moving.
- The queen kills herself
- Lennox and other lords desert Macbeth's cause
- Macbeth readies for battle.