

Macbeth

Act I
Scenes I - IV



Closer Look

1. A soldier tells Duncan and his sons that Macbeth has been brave in the battle and brought about victory for King Duncan's army.
2. Ross reveals that the Thane of Cawdor has been a traitor, and helped the King of Norway. He is sentenced to death by Duncan and his title is to be given to Macbeth.
9. Macbeth sees Malcolm's position as an obstacle to the final prediction coming true. He is already beginning to be ambitious for the throne.

Picture matching leading to scaffolded comprehension work.

If you can persuade students to do something simple together they will jointly try something more difficult!

Macbeth -Close look at Act One



This activity was first developed at a collaborative learning workshop in April 1994 by Rosemary Hogbin and Pat Howson from Francis Coombe School in Garston near Watford.

This activity was last updated 5th April 2016

The webaddress for the activity is;

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/macbethcloselookact1.pdf>

Our collaborative talk for learning activities are designed to:

...build on prior knowledge.

...move from concrete to abstract thinking.

...ensure everyone works with everyone else.

...extend social language into curriculum language.

...provide motivating ways to go over the same topic more than once.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Macbeth -Close look at Act one

Teachers' notes

This activity was first developed for use with Year 10 but now that Macbeth is studied in KS3 works well with younger pupils. Depending on the familiarity of your class with collaborative work you could try giving half the class the picture text matching work and the other half the comprehension AND when the groups doing the picture matching have finished (as they will do more rapidly) they can swap tasks with a comprehension group and in effect complete the rest of the comprehension. That way everyone gets to do the picture matching and half of the comprehension.

Three stages

1a. Children work in pairs or threes if you are short of good readers. Each pair is given a sheet outlining the main events after the battle between Duncan's armies and the King of Norway.

1b. Each pair is given a set of pictures with quotations in random order to cut out and match with the paragraphs.

1c. Each pair joins with another to compare matches.

1d. A possible plenary here to discuss outcomes.

2a. Children in the same pairs are given a set of questions on the same events. They also receive a sheet of additional information. They formulate answers and leave spaces between each answer for extra notes.

2b. The teacher goes through the answers and children self correct.

3a. In the same pairs the children use the events pictures and their answers to the comprehension questions to draft a letter from Macbeth to Lady Macbeth to let her know about Duncan's decision to visit and share the good news about their future.

Macbeth

Act I

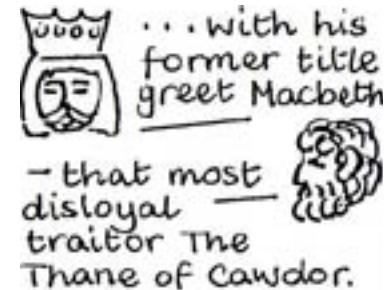
Scenes I - IV

1.

A soldier tells Duncan and his sons that Macbeth has been brave in the battle and brought about victory for King Duncan's army.



2. Ross reveals that the Thane of Cawdor has been a traitor, and helped the King of Norway. Cawdor is sentenced to death by Duncan and his title is to be given to Macbeth.



3. Macbeth and Banquo meet three witches. The witches hail Macbeth, Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor and king hereafter. Banquo is told he will father kings but that he will not be king.



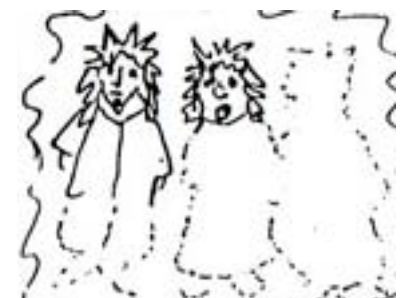
4.

Macbeth is confused and tries to question the witches. He knows he is Thane of Glamis but the other predictions amaze him.



5.

The witches vanish.



Macbeth

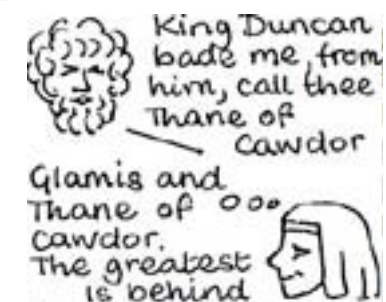
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6. Macbeth tries to make sense of what the witches have said. He discusses their words with Banquo.



7. Ross arrives to summon Macbeth and Banquo to Duncan's palace. Duncan has told Ross to call Macbeth Thane of Cawdor. The first prediction of the witches has come true.



8. At Duncan's castle, Duncan makes his eldest son, Malcolm, Prince of Cumberland and Macbeth is confirmed as Thane of Cawdor




9. Macbeth sees Malcolm's position as an obstacle to the final prediction coming true. He is already beginning to be ambitious for the throne.




10. Duncan tells Macbeth that he will return with him to Macbeth's castle. This is a great honour. Macbeth says he will send a message to his wife at home.



brave Macbeth, well he deserves that name -



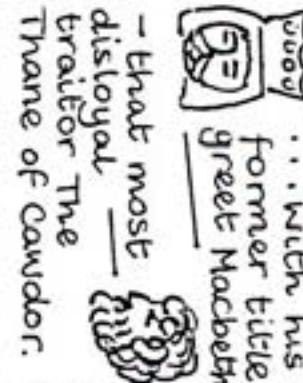
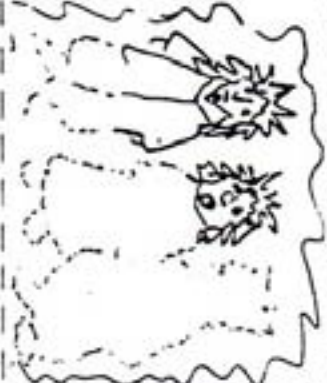
The Prince of Cumberland
That is a step on which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap...



Stay you imperfect speakers, tell me more -



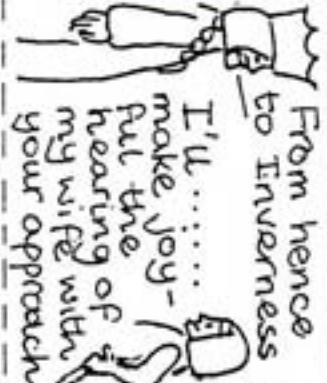
...With his former title greet Macbeth
- that most disloyal traitor The Thane of Cawdor.

Thane of Cawdor King
Thou shalt get Kings, though thou be none:



From hence to Inverness I'll... make joy - put the hearing of my wife with your approach



King Duncan bade me from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor
Glamis and Thane of Cawdor. The greatest is behind



Our eldest Malcolom whom we name hereafter The Prince of Cumberland



Your children shall be kings.
You shall - be king.



The Witches



Duncan



Banquo



Macbeth



Lady Macbeth



Ross



Macbeth -Close look at Act One

Comprehension questions

It is a good idea to use the text of the play to find evidence to support your answers. Words taken from the play should always be set out on a separate line with quotation (speech) marks at the beginning and end.

1. Find the word meaning Scottish lord.
2. Why would you say that the play begins in a supernatural way?
3. What is the event that has just taken place? Who is involved? Who brings news to whom? What is that news?
4. When the witches meet Macbeth, what do they predict? How soon does the first prediction come true? Why has this come about?
5. The witches predictions begin to influence Macbeth. What thoughts begin to form in his mind? What news announced by Duncan provides fresh anxiety? Why is it a worry?
6. What opinion does Lady Macbeth have of her husband? What evidence is there to suggest that Lady Macbeth is superstitious? What are your first impressions of Lady Macbeth?
7. What are the influences that affect Macbeth's decisions? Who has become the driving force behind Macbeth? How?
8. Before the actual murder, how does Macbeth's mind play tricks on him? What part does Lady Macbeth play?

Macbeth -Close look at Act one

The beginning of the story in brief

Three witches meet in thunder and lightning and discuss Macbeth. They say they will meet him after the battle.

Some of the Scottish lords (thanes) have rebelled against their king Duncan. To help the rebels, the Norwegians have sent an army. There has been a great battle.

King Duncan waits for the report of the battle. A badly wounded captain reports that although the rebels had strong forces, Macbeth and Banquo were the heroes because they fought so bravely. The wounded man is sent for treatment.

Another soldier named Ross arrives giving further news of the battle. Ross tells that Macbeth has triumphed, capturing the leader of the rebels, the Thane of Cawdor, and making a very favourable peace treaty with the King of Norway. Duncan sentences Cawdor to death and gives the title to Macbeth.

The three witches wait for Macbeth. They hear his drum. The witches chant and predict that he will be Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland. Banquo, who is with him, asks about his future. The witches tell him that his descendants will be kings. The witches disappear and Ross arrives. He tells Macbeth that he is now Thane of Cawdor. Macbeth is astonished that the first prediction has come true.

The first seeds of ambition are sown in Macbeth's mind as he considers the possibility of the second prediction coming true. Macbeth has the 'horrid image' of murdering Duncan himself. He decides to leave it to fate.

Macbeth is warmly welcomed by Duncan, declares his loyalty to the king, but is appalled that the king's son Malcolm is declared heir to the throne. Macbeth, now ambitious for the throne, sees Malcolm as an obstacle. Macbeth invites the king to his castle and rides ahead to prepare for his coming. He has already written to his wife telling her what the witches have predicted.

When reading his letter, Lady Macbeth is scathing about her husband's lack of will to pursue what the witches have promised. She thinks he may be too decent and squeamish to murder Duncan. The fact that Duncan shows that fate is on her side and she calls on evil spirits to help her murderous plans.

Lady Macbeth is gracious in her welcome to the king and urges Macbeth to hide his murderous intent behind welcoming looks. She says that she will manage the death of Duncan.

Macbeth wrestles with his conscience, to kill or not to kill. And what will happen afterwards? There are bound to be repercussions. Heaven will be against such a dreadful deed, but ambition drives him on. After much consideration Macbeth reveals that he has decided not to kill Duncan. Lady Macbeth accuses him of cowardice and lack of manliness.

Lady Macbeth will make the King's bodyguards so drunk that murdering the King and blaming it on the guards will be easy. Macbeth agrees but says they should hide their evil thoughts with pleasant looks.

Alone, Macbeth hallucinates, imagining he sees a dagger leading him to Duncan's bedchamber. Lady Macbeth, the worse for drink, waits for Macbeth to return. She has drugged the guards but fears that the murder has not been done. Macbeth returns, saying the king is dead.