



# Macbeth



By William Shakespeare

## Characters



**Macbeth** – A warlike Scottish lord who betrays and murders his king for power



**Lady Macbeth** – Macbeth’s ambitious and cold-blooded wife



**Duncan** – A good and noble Scottish king who is murdered by Macbeth



**Banquo** – Macbeth’s friend, who also receives a prediction from the witches



**Macduff** – A Scottish Lord who seeks revenge on Macbeth



**The witches** – Three strange figures who predict Macbeth will become king



**Malcolm** – Duncan’s son and heir, who flees to England after the murder

## Plot:

Macbeth and his best friend, Banquo, are brave soldiers. One day, after a battle, three ugly witches come out of the fog and tell Macbeth that one day, he will be King of Scotland. Macbeth writes a letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth. He tells her what the witches said and she is excited to one day become queen. King Duncan, the current King of Scotland, comes for dinner and sleeps at Macbeth’s castle. When Duncan is asleep, Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to kill him. Macbeth sees a knife in front of him. He knows it is wrong, but he decides to kill Duncan. Macbeth becomes king but he is worried that his friend Banquo knows he killed Duncan. He decides that Banquo must die too and he orders his servant to kill him. Macbeth sees Banquo’s ghost in front of him. He’s very frightened. He goes to see the witches again. Macbeth asks the witches if he’s in danger. They tell him, everything will be fine. Macbeth believes the witches but they were lying. Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking. She wanted to be queen but now she feels terrible after everything that they have done. She understands that it is wrong to kill. An army, formed by Duncan’s sons and Macduff, comes to attack the castle.

## Vocabulary:

**Metaphor** - saying something is something else, e.g. he is a shining star.

**Personification** – giving non-human things human qualities or characteristics, e.g. the wind howled at the night.

**Simile** - comparing two things using “like” or “as”, e.g. as white as snow.

**Tyrant** - a cruel and oppressive ruler

**Thane** – a Scottish nobleman

**Heir** – someone who will inherit property or titles when someone else dies

Punctuation	Example:
<b>Semi Colons</b> - ; - A semi-colon can be used instead of a full stop between two related sentences. This links them together in a way a full stop doesn't.	Macbeth was an evil character; he killed his best friend in order to become a king!
<b>Inverted Commas</b> – “ ” – Inverted commas are punctuation marks that are used in writing to show where speech or a quotation begins and ends.	“I will not listen to this!”, shouted Amy.
<b>Commas</b> - In a long sentence, you can use commas to separate out extra information and make the sentence easier to read. Commas can be used to break up sentences that have more than one clause and make them easier to read.	When Albert saw the food, his tummy started to rumble.
<b>Active and Passive Voice</b> - A sentence is written in active voice when the subject of the sentence performs the action in the sentence. A sentence is written in passive voice when the subject of the sentence has an action done to it by someone or something else.	<b>Active:</b> The girl was washing the dog. <b>Passive:</b> The dog was being washed by the girl.