**Week 1** *Macbeth (Classic fiction - playscript) by William Shakespeare*

Born in 1564, William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. *Macbeth*, one of his darkest and most powerful tragedies, is about the corrupting power of ambition. In this keys scene from the first act, Macbeth and Banquo encounter The Three Witches, who deliver the fateful prophecy that one day Macbeth will be king.

### Section 1:
1a) Find and copy the stage direction used at the start of the playscript.
1b) Who is the first character to speak in the scene?
1c) Look at the glossary. What does ‘rapt withal’ mean?
1d) How do you think Macbeth and Banquo felt when they first spotted ‘The Witches’? Explain your answer fully.
1e) The extract is from which act and scene in the playscript?

### Section 2:
2a) “not like th’inhabitants o’th’earth” (line 5). Three letters are missing from this phrase. Rewrite the sentence, replacing the apostrophes with the appropriate letters.
2b) Which three bits of information did ‘The Witches’ give when speaking about Macbeth?
2c) In your own words, describe what ‘The Witches’ look like.
2d) What punctuation is used after the name of each character speaking?
2e) Why is Banquo uncertain whether ‘The Witches’ are men or women?

### Section 3:
3a) What does the word “noble” (line 19) mean? You can use the dictionary.
3b) What do you think ‘The Witches’ mean when they say ‘hail’ to Macbeth?
3c) What does line 16 tell you about Macbeth’s reaction to ‘The Witches’ prophecy that he will become king?
3d) Find and copy a phrase from lines 16-21 which shows that Banquo isn’t sure whether ‘The Witches’ are real or not.
3e) “look into the seeds of time / And say which grain will grow” (lines 23-24). This is an example of: (choose one)
   - onomatopoeia
   - personification
   - a metaphor
   - a simile
3f) Why is the above phrase an example of the language you picked?
3g) How do you think Macbeth and Banquo felt when they first spotted ‘The Witches’? Explain your answer fully.
3h) Do you think Banquo is afraid of ‘The Witches’? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text.
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**Answers**

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<th>Section 1:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a) Enter Macbeth and Banquo</td>
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<td>1b) Macbeth</td>
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<td>1c) amazed</td>
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<td>1d) E.g. They may have felt shocked to see them and wondered what they were doing.</td>
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<td>1e) Act 1, Scene 3</td>
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<th>Section 2:</th>
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<td>2a) not like the inhabitants of the earth</td>
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<td>2b) He was the Thane of Glamis, the Thane of Cawdr and that he shall be king.</td>
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<td>2c) E.g. They are wrinkled and are wearing such strange clothes that they look as if they could have come from a different planet. They have thin lips and beards.</td>
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<td>2d) colon</td>
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<td>2e) E.g. They seem like women, but they have beards, which are normally associated with men.</td>
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<th>Section 3:</th>
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<td>3a) E.g. aristocratic; titled; high-born</td>
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<td>3b) E.g. I think it means that Macbeth needs to be saluted or greeted.</td>
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<td>3c) E.g. It shows that Macbeth is shocked by the prophecy and that he seems afraid.</td>
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<td>3d) “Are ye fantastical”</td>
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<td>3e) a metaphor</td>
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<td>3f) E.g. The phrase describes the object in a way that isn't true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison. It states that one thing is another thing.</td>
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<td>3g) E.g. They may have felt shocked to see them and wondered what they were doing.</td>
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<td>3h) E.g. No. he doesn't seem frightened of The Witches. He thinks that the things they tell Macbeth sound positive, not frightening. He also says that he isn't afraid of The Witches hating him.</td>
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William Shakespeare lived more than 400 years ago. Many people see him as the greatest writer in the English language. *Macbeth* is one of Shakespeare's best-known plays. In this scene, Macbeth and his friend Banquo are travelling to the town of Forres when they meet three witches.

Enter MACBETH and BANQUO.

MACBETH: So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO: How far is't called to Forres? What are these, So withered and so wild in their attire*,
That look not like th'inhabitants o' th'earth, 
And yet are on't? Live you, or are you aught* 
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her choppy finger laying 
Upon her skinny lips; you should be women, 
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret 
That you are so.

MACBETH: Speak if you can: what are you?

FIRST WITCH: All hail Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane* of Glamis!

SECOND WITCH: All hail Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!

THIRD WITCH: All hail Macbeth that shalt be king hereafter!

BANQUO: Good sir, why do you start, and seem to fear Things that do sound so fair? 'Th'name of truth Are ye fantastical*, or that indeed Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner 
You greet with present grace and great prediction 
Of noble having and of royal hope, 
That he seems rapt withal*. To me you speak not. If you can look into the seeds of time 
And say which grain will grow and which will not, 
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear 
Your favours nor your hate.

FIRST WITCH: Hail!

SECOND WITCH: Hail!

THIRD WITCH: Hail!

An extract from Act I, Scene 3 of *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare.

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**Glossary**

*attire — clothes*  
*Than — a person holding some of the King's land*  
*rapt withal — amazed*  
*aught — anything*  
*fantastical — imaginary*