

Sssshhh! Did you know that some actors won't even say the name of this play? Superstition says that the play is cursed, and just saying the word 'Macbeth' inside a theatre will cause disaster!

Scotland is at war, and the hero of the battle is Macbeth. This is the story of Macbeth's rise to power, and the terrible consequences of his ambition.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1..... a battle | a. to be given a better job |
| 2..... cold-blooded | b. a fight between two groups of soldiers during a war |
| 3..... victory | c. to give someone something for doing something good |
| 4..... drunk | d. success in defeating an army |
| 5..... to reward someone | e. things that someone says will happen in the future |
| 6..... to be promoted | f. having no emotions or sympathy for other people |
| 7..... predictions | g. really frightened |
| 8..... terrified | h. affected by alcohol in a way that changes a person's behaviour |

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1–7) to put these events from the story in order.

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|-------|---|
| | Macbeth gets promoted. |
| | Macbeth is killed in the battle. |
| | Macbeth murders King Duncan. |
| | The witches tell Macbeth he is the future king. |
| | Lady Macbeth plans King Duncan's murder. |
| | An army from England comes for Macbeth. |
| | Lady Macbeth goes mad with guilt and kills herself. |

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|-----|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | Macbeth has done a lot for Scotland in the recent battle. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | The witches have bad news for Macbeth. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Some of the witches' predictions come true immediately. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Macbeth forgets about the predictions that he will become king. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Lady Macbeth doesn't want Macbeth to be king. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | It's Lady Macbeth's idea to murder King Duncan. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Macbeth murders King Duncan while his guards are asleep. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Duncan's son becomes the new king of Scotland. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 9. | The witches tell Macbeth he will be safe until a forest comes to his castle. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 10. | Lady Macbeth goes mad with guilt and commits suicide. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 11. | Macbeth's enemies, the English army, take branches from the trees for protection. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 12. | The witches lied to Macbeth about his death. | <i>False</i> | <i>False</i> |

Discussion

What went wrong for Macbeth?

Is there a moment in the story when he could have done things better and avoided tragedy?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.