



MACBETH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

STAGE 3
B1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITIES

Use the verbs in the box to help you complete these sentences.

add - answer - ask - call - continue - cry - reply - whisper

There was a lot of noise as the king came into the courtyard. 'This is a fine castle,' he 1 _____ called above the noise of the horses and men. 'Here is the beautiful Lady Macbeth. Thank you for being our host.'

'It is an honour to welcome you to our home,' 2 _____ replied Lady Macbeth.

'How was your journey, Sire?' 3 _____ asked Macbeth, who arrived to stand next to his wife.

'It was long, but good,' the king 4 _____ answered, 'I hope you have food for our horses and men?' he 5 _____ added, with a smile.

The man who looked after the horses was on the other side of the courtyard. 'Come, Stefan!' 6 _____ called Macbeth, 'Come and take the King's horse!'

The King and his men went into the castle, but Lady Macbeth pulled her husband to one side.

'Is everything ready for tonight?' she 7 _____ whispered so that no one could hear her.

'I hope you have not changed your mind,' she 8 _____ continued. Macbeth gave her a worried look, then walked quickly to catch up with the king.

1 called; 2 replied; 3 asked; 4 answered; 5 added; 6 called; 7 whispered; 8 continued.



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TEST YOURSELF

Who is it?

Lennox - Macduff - Macbeth - the Porter

- 1 Who knocks at the castle gates the morning after the king arrives?

- 2 Who opens the gate for them?

- 3 Who comes into the courtyard?

- 4 Who goes into the King's room?

- 5 Who stays to talk in the courtyard?

- 6 Who calls the alarm and wakes everyone up?



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PET - Speaking

Work in pairs. Use the prompts to discuss what has happened to the king.

Lennox

- what / see?
- where / king?
- what /do next?
- what / after that?
- what / we do now?

Macduff

- into King's room
- King murdered
- ran / courtyard
- shouted / alarm
- find / murderer



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FOCUS ON...

Superstition and “The Scottish Play”

While many today would say that any misfortune surrounding a production is mere coincidence, actors and other theatre people often consider it bad luck to mention Macbeth by name while inside a theatre, and sometimes refer to it indirectly, for example as “the Scottish play”, or “MacBee”, or when referring to the character and not the play, “Mr. and Mrs. M”, or “The Scottish King”. This is because Shakespeare (or the play’s revisers) are said to have used the spells of real witches in his text, purportedly angering the witches and causing them to curse the play. Thus, to say the name of the play inside a theatre is believed to doom the production to failure, and perhaps cause physical injury or death to cast members. There are stories of accidents, misfortunes and even deaths taking place during runs of Macbeth.

