

# MACBETH

## Will's Words

This series of four tasks will ask you to use a range of reading skills including inference, deduction, prediction, summarising, questioning, clarifying and link making,

You can choose how many of the tasks you do but you should start from the beginning and do them in order, if you want to do more than one. This is because each task helps you build the skills and knowledge you need to complete the following one.

For each of these tasks you will use a section of the play, sometimes it will be the full extract and other times just a little part of it.  
Read the instructions carefully to find out which part of the text extract to use.

### Here is the full extract:

#### **SCENE III. A heath**

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches*

##### **First Witch**

A drum, a drum!

Macbeth doth come.

##### **ALL**

The weird sisters, hand in hand,

Posters of the sea and land,

Thus do go about, about:

Thrice to thine and thrice to mine

And thrice again, to make up nine.

Peace! the charm's wound up.

*Enter MACBETH and BANQUO*

##### **MACBETH**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

##### **BANQUO**

What are these

So wither'd and so wild in their attire,

That look not like the inhabitants o' the 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 chappy 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, thou shalt be king hereafter!

**BANQUO**

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction  
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

**First Witch**

Hail!

**Second Witch**

Hail!

**Third Witch**

Hail!

**First Witch**

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

**Second Witch**

Not so happy, yet much happier.

**Third Witch**

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

**MACBETH**

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
I know I am thane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence

You owe this strange intelligence? or why  
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

*Witches vanish*

**BANQUO**

Whither are they vanish'd?

**MACBETH**

Into the air

**BANQUO**

Were such things here as we do speak about?

**MACBETH**

Your children shall be kings.

**BANQUO** You shall be king.

## Task 1: Word Nerds

**Instructions - For this you will need the whole extract.**

**Question:** What do you think is happening in this scene (don't get worried about what you don't know or understand at this point)

Try to sum it up in one or two sentences:

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Make a list of words that are

1. Repeated
2. Unknown to you
3. Unusual or interesting

### My list of words

Repeated	Unknown to me	Unusual or interesting words

Keep this list safe, you'll need it later.

## Task 2: Punctuation Hunters

Instructions - For this you will need this part of the extract only

### MACBETH

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
I know I amthane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? thethane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence  
You owe this strange intelligence? or why  
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

You will also need to clear some space to move around.

- Read through Macbeth's speech whilst walking around, turning a full 180 degrees at the end of each sentence.
- Do this again but this time whenever you reach a comma, move in a zig zag way.

**Question:** What do you notice about the way that you are moving when reading this part of the text? Are you walking in lots of straight lines and for a long time before changing direction? If so then the character isn't starting new sentences very often. What do you think that tells us about their thoughts and feelings at this point in the story?

Are you changing direction lots and quickly? If so, then the character has lots of different thoughts in their mind. What might this tell us about how they feel at this time?

Write down in a couple of sentences what you think Macbeth is feeling right now and how this is presented in the way that he speaks – use your walk to help you.

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### Task 3: Reading Hats

**Instruction: For this task you will need the full extract again.**

This task requires different thinking skills from you by putting different reading 'hats' on.

- Select one of the 'Reading Hats' cards at a time and read the instructions on the card.
- The different reading hats are:
  - Questioner
  - Clarifier
  - Link Maker
  - Summariser
  - Predictor

# THE QUESTIONER

## MR SHAKESPEARE SAYS;

To be or not to be? That is the question!  
Well your job is to ask questions about the  
text you have read.



- Ask questions that will help you to understand the text better.
- Think about using How, What, Why, When, Who and Where to start you off.

# THE CLARIFIER

## MR SHAKESPEARE SAYS;

My words can sometimes be tricky to your  
21st century ears. So your job is...



- Find any words you don't understand
- Look for clues
- Read on to see if it makes sense
- Try using another word in place of the confusing word.
- Use a dictionary.



# THE LINK MAKER

## MR SHAKESPEARE SAYS;

Many of my stories feature repeated themes and plots. Your job is to...



- Think about this story.
- What else does it remind you of?
- It might be something you have seen, read or experienced.

# THE SUMMARISER

## MR SHAKESPEARE SAYS;

Zounds! Thy job is the most important! For thy friends will rely on you to understand the story.



- Retell the story in your own words
- What is the main idea?
- Who are the main characters?

# THE PREDICTOR

## MR SHAKESPEARE SAYS;

Like the witches in Macbeth you must  
look into the future...



- What will happen next in the story?
- Use words like: I think, I predict, I imagine, I wonder if?
- Can you use evidence from the text to justify your predictions?

Read the full text extract from the beginning one more time and as you do, think about the reading 'hat' skills that you will be focusing on.



As you think of a response to the prompts on the cards, write it on your 'Reading Hats sheet' in the designated area

My Reading Hats sheet	My summary of events
My questions	My clarified words and what I think they mean
My predictions	The links that I found

Repeat this for each of the Reading Hats. Of course, you don't need to reread the extract every time but if you find it useful, then you can.

#### **Task 4: Practicing PEEing (Point, Evidence, Explain)**

**Instructions:** You will need to use the full extract for this task BUT you may not need to re-read the whole extract again.

We have included a set of reading comprehension questions that you will need to answer using full sentences. You will also need to make sure you PEE!

Use this reminder for how to PEE and look at the example we have included to help you do it well.

## PEE

- Make your **POINT**
- Find your **EVIDENCE**
- **EXPLAIN** how your evidence backs up your point



### Extract from Chapter Four, *King of Shadows* by Susan Cooper

And their London swept over me, caught me up in a nightmare mix of sight and sound and smell. Even before six in the morning the street was filled with people, bustling about, carrying huge bundles, selling fruit or pastries and pamphlets from trays slung from their necks; dodging to avoid men or horses. Carts clattered over the cobbles, creaking, rocking, splashing up muck sometimes from the stinking ditches into which Harry and everyone emptied their waste. Water ran through the ditches, but slowly. There were flies buzzing everywhere. The whole street smelled bad; so did the people sometimes, if a particularly unwashed one jostled too close...

**How does the author make Shakespeare's London seem to the reader?**

## POINT

It seems very busy and quite stressful.

## EVIDENCE

The author says the streets are filled with people. She uses verbs like bustling, selling and jostling. She includes vehicles and animals as well as humans.

## EXPLAIN

The way the author includes all these elements makes the streets seem full of life – with people, vehicles and animals moving. It seems like an intimidating place to be.

## Your reading comprehension questions

Answer at least two of the following questions (you will need to have done the 'Reading Hats' task beforehand). Make sure that you justify your answers using Point, Evidence, Explain wherever you can

- The green questions are the easiest.
- The yellow questions are a little harder
- The orange questions are the trickiest

Choose two of the tricky words that needed clarifying. What do they mean? How did you work out what they meant?

Using Link making skills, what does this story remind you of? Perhaps you have seen something similar in a book or another film.

Can you summarise what happens in the scene and give a prediction of what might happen next? Can you justify your prediction?

What confuses or puzzles you about this text? What questions do you have about the characters or the events of the story?

Banquo and Macbeth cannot be friends after the witches' revelations. Do you think that this is true? What problems might Macbeth and Banquo have in their friendship now? Use evidence from the text

[illegible]



Why did the author....?	Who did...
In what ways does.....?	What happened after/before...
Explain how....?	How many...
What might.....?	What is...
Describe what...	Describe what...
Can you name the...	Can you name the...
If you were.....	Find the meaning of...
What do you think about....?	Which character...
Does this remind you of....?	
Do you agree or disagree that...?	
How do we know that....?	
What clues do we have about the character of.....?	
Have you ever...?	
Why is... important in the story?	

### My questions

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**Finally, to conclude all of your brilliant work on this:**



Return to the list of words that you made at the beginning. Which ones do you know now? Which ones do you need to do a bit more research on? Could you ask someone in your house? Look on the internet?

**Words I now know:**

**Words to research the meanings of:**

**What can you say about the language Shakespeare uses?**

Why does Shakespeare repeat certain words?

Which is your favourite new word?

Can you use it in a sentence of your own?