

English – Macbeth: Week 1 20-24.4.20

Activity 1

Before reading...

This play is set in Scotland. Can you find and locate Scotland on the map of the UK in your pack?

Look carefully at the cast list on pages 4 and 5 and look at the gallery of characters on the BBC website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-macbeth-meet-the-characters/zbyqd6f>

Today's writing task is write a brief description of each character in the story.

Activity 2

Read pages 7-15 and watch clip 1 'The Weird Sisters

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-macbeth-1/z632jnv>

Now answer the following questions:

Vocabulary	What does 'gloating' (pg 7) mean? Look at the illustration of the witches on page 7. Can you think of three adjectives to describe them? Can you find an example of a simile on page 8. What does it mean? Is it effective? Find and copy a word on page 11 that means the same as 'weak'. Try performing the chant on page 15, beginning "All hail, Macbeth..." Can you make it sound frightening, threatening and spooky? What does the word 'thane' mean?
Retrieve	How have the witches remained undetected all day? Which two sides are fighting in the battle? The second witch has a tuft of black hair sprouting from her chin. True or false? What are the names of the two Scottish generals? Use the information on page 10 to draw and label a picture of Macbeth.

Activity 3

Reread pages 7-15 and watch clip 1 'The Weird Sisters again.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-macbeth-1/z632jnv>

Now answer the following questions:

Infer	What is the weather like on the battlefield? How do you know? What do you think the crystal allows the third witch to do (pg 9)? Read page 11. Why do you think Banquo isn't smiling? How do you know the horse is scared on page 12? What might Macbeth be thinking and feeling on pages 14 and 15?
Explain	In the play, when Banquo sees the witches he says, "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?" Can you explain to a partner what he might be saying about the witches? What is an 'inhabitant o' th' Earth' and why don't the witches look like one? On page 12, the hags' robes are 'streaming like tattered flags in the wind'. Why do you think the author has chosen this simile? Where else might we see 'tattered flags'? (An interesting link to make here with the battlefield!) Look at pages 14 and 15. How does the author make the witches seem mysterious and scary?

Activity 4

Read the following extract from the original Shakespeare text, when Banquo describes the witches for the first time:

*What are these
So withered and so wild in their attire
That look not like the inhabitants of the earth
And yet are on it? 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*

using the original text, the story and the video clip, collect ideas about what the witches look like. What words and phrases in the text describe their appearance?

Now draw and label pictures of the three witches. Try to make each witch different to the next. One might be old and withered, the next might be young, one might be a male witch etc.

use similes, relative clauses and expanded noun phrases to add detail to your descriptions. Remember to use your imagination!

Activity 5

Today's writing task:

using the labelled drawings that you completed yesterday, I would like you to write a description of the three witches.

Remember to:

- Write in paragraphs
- Check your punctuation and spelling
- Reread your writing- does it make sense?
- Use similes, expanded noun phrases and relative clauses to add detail to your sentences and extend them.

When you have finished, read through your description and ask your parent to read it too. Edit your writing and correct any errors.

Well done for completing this week's English tasks!

Don't forget- if you would like to send me your writing to read, you can take a photograph of it or write it up on a computer, and then send it to me at:

rowanclass@lea-primary.hereford.sch.uk