



The Tragedy Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

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#agesago

You have arrived at your destination:

Scotland
in Medieval Times (c. 11th Century)

Who are the Characters we Meet?



Macbeth



Lady Macbeth



King Duncan



Malcolm



Fleance



Banquo



Macduff



Witches

#witchespredict



Macbeth - Thane of Glamis (pronounced: glarms) and his mate Banquo have just finished at a battle and are on the way home when they meet three witches. The witches tell Macbeth that he will become the Thane of Cawdor and also King of Scotland. Macbeth is surprised (as you would be). They tell Banquo that his descendants will become kings.

#ismelltrouble



Soon, the King makes Macbeth the Thane of Cawdor because he was so brave in the battle. Macbeth is getting a bit excited that the predictions are coming true. Banquo is not so sure. Macbeth writes to tell his wife, Lady Macbeth, she also gets very excited. So much so, that when she hears that King Duncan is coming to their house she plots to kill him so that Macbeth can be king, just like the witches said.

#deadking



Lady Macbeth gets evil spirits to help her kill the king, but she talks Macbeth into doing the actual deed. Macbeth stabs King Duncan to death, and Lady Macbeth frames the servants for the crime by putting the dagger next to them.

#whenyoureinaholestopdigging



The next morning, Macduff arrives and he is the one who discovers King Duncan's body. Macbeth now kills the King's servants so that they do not say they are innocent. Macbeth tells everyone that he killed them as he was angry they had killed the King.

#dunnarunna



King Duncan's sons – Malcolm and Donalbain – run away far from the area in case someone wants to kill them too (even though they do not know who), but no one (apart from the Macbeths) is actually sure *who* killed the King. However, Macbeth *is* crowned King because Donalbain and Malcolm made themselves suspects by running away.

#bitharsh



Macbeth now knows that two predictions have come true. He also remembers that the other prediction was about Banquo's sons becoming kings. Macbeth feels threatened and decides that Banquo and his son, Fleance, must die too. However the plan goes a bit wrong, Banquo dies but Fleance escapes...

#losttheplot



Whilst at a royal feast, Banquo's ghost comes back and scares the living daylights out of Macbeth. People think he's lost the plot as they can't see the ghost. Lady Macbeth tells everyone to go home. Macbeth is in such a mess that he visits the witches again to see what they predict for him now.

#witchespredictagain



This time the witches say three things:

1. You will be safe until the trees move towards you.
2. No one 'born of woman' will kill you.
3. Beware Macduff.

#itsallgonnakickoff



Macbeth thinks about the witches predictions and he feels quite secure as trees can't move and everyone must be 'born of woman'. However, the 'Beware Macduff' bit is playing on his mind. Macduff is away in England, but Macbeth has his family killed anyway, just to be sure.

#movingtreesarereal



Macduff hears about the killings and is so angry he gets together with Malcolm (King Duncan's son). They gather an army together to seize back the throne from Macbeth...

...When they are ready to take Macbeth's castle they hide under trees as camouflage and move forward.

(Note: witches' prediction of moving trees.)

#ladymlosttheplot



Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth also loses the plot. As a result of all the killings, she feels guilty and has started sleep walking, talking to herself and washing imaginary blood from her hands. She says one of the play's famous lines: "Out damned spot!" (meaning "get clean") She eventually kills herself.

#propheciesfulfilled



Finally, Macbeth and Macduff have it out in a fight on the battlefield. During the fight, Macduff reveals that he was born by Caesarean section and therefore not 'born of woman' just like the witches said.

Macbeth realises he is doomed and Macduff kills him.

#newkingpew



Malcolm becomes king and makes a big speech to everyone saying everything will be alright. In this speech he calls the Macbeths: “the dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,” then invites everyone to come and see him crowned at Scone Castle.

What can you remember? Can you put the details to these hashtags?

1. #witchespredict
2. #ismelltrouble
3. #deading
4. #whenyoureinaholestopdigging
5. #dunnarunna
6. #bitharsh
7. #losttheplot
8. #witchespredictagain
9. #itsallgonnakickoff
10. #movingtreesareareal
11. #ladymlosttheplot
12. #propheciesfulfilled
13. #newkingpnew



Did You Know?

Saying the word 'Macbeth' in a theatre or a production is thought to be very unlucky.

People call it 'The Scottish Play' instead.

Why?

In times past, if your play wasn't doing very well in the theatre it would be closed and in its place people normally put on Macbeth as it was always popular.

So, saying "Macbeth" was and is like telling people that your play won't be successful.



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