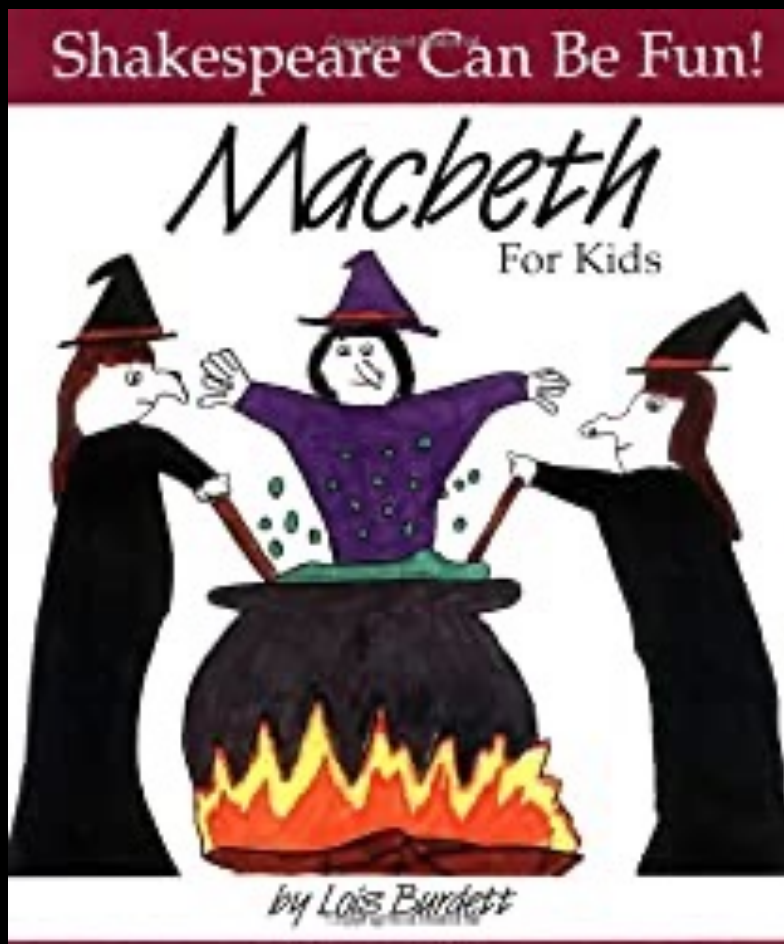


Macbeth for Kids

Prediction / Retelling



Big Ideas for Little Scholars



RESOURCES for GIFTED
& ADVANCED LEARNERS

TEACHER INFORMATION

ABOUT

Students will be shown portions of the storyline of [Macbeth for Kids](#) and use details to make predictions. Then, the basic story will be retold as students sequence plot cards. This free resource is part of a lesson plan shared at [Big Ideas for Little Scholars](#). You can find it [HERE](#).

MATERIALS NEEDED

the book [Macbeth for Kids](#) from the series *Shakespeare Can Be Fun* by Lois Burdett

Per student pair or small group:

- plot sequence cards, printed on cardstock, cut apart, laminated (two separate sets)
- (optional) pencil, paper, or individual whiteboards w/ markers

Method One:

a document camera

Method Two:

handwritten cards or posters with the text from the pages listed in the chart- *with page numbers*- to hand out or display around the room (per copyright law)

INFERENCE / PREDICTION ACTIVITY

1. Assign students to pairs or small groups. Explain that they will read portions of a story plot, a little at a time. Using one of the methods above, either display the pages one by one, or have students read them at their desks or off the wall. Explain that you'd like them to use details to infer and make predictions about the setting, the plot and the characters.
2. Before sharing the pages, explain that the book is written in [rhyming couplets](#). Explain this poetic form further if necessary.
3. As text is shared, have students quietly discuss what they can infer. They may write or share their ideas aloud (*see chart below for possible responses*). Invite students to also make predictions as they notice hints of foreshadowing in the lines.
4. Discuss as a group.

page 6	setting: Scotland, a battlefield plot: Norway and Scotland are fighting a fierce battle
page 7	setting: a distant field characters: three hags or witches (from illustrations) plot: they plan to meet after the battle is over; they discuss meeting Macbeth.
page 8	setting: not far away characters: King Duncan and his two sons plot: they are wondering how the battle is going; a sergeant enters to give a report

continued

page 9	plot: the sergeant explains that the battle was nearly lost until Macbeth saves the day. Norway surrenders. The sergeant needs medical attention!
page 10 <i>Note: explain that THANE was a title of nobility, similar to EARL or DUKE</i>	characters: Ross (someone the king trusts) plot: reports that one of Duncan's lords had betrayed him and joined the Norwegians when the battle looked lost to Scotland. prediction: Duncan will be angry about this. He may punish the Thane of Cawdor. (This video cuts off, but explains THANE in Macbeth)
page 13	setting: a muddy path somewhere, in a storm characters: Macbeth and his good friend Banquo plot: they are walking along when they see the hags.
page 14	plot: the hags greet (hail) Macbeth with three different titles: his own, the traitor's, and the title of king. (<i>Students might need help understanding that the hags are making predictions about Macbeth's future</i>). prediction: Duncan will give Macbeth a new title and position to reward him for his bravery in battle.
page 15	plot: Macbeth is shocked by their prediction. Banquo wants to know what his future is. The hags speak in riddles.
page 16	plot: Ross and Angus, two messengers find Macbeth and announce that he's now the Thane of Cawdor, too (he's been given the traitor's region in addition to his own region of Glamis). Macbeth is again shocked at how quickly this came true. prediction: the idea that "dark thoughts fill Macbeth's head" is foreshadowing. Macbeth seems troubled about the future.
page 18	setting: the King's chamber plot: King Duncan greets Macbeth and Banquo and praises them, but then announces that his son will be king. prediction: Macbeth is filled with "black and deep desires," a hint about how he responds to not being king.
page 19	setting: at home in the castle character: Macbeth's wife plot: she reads a letter sent by her husband and learns about the hags' prediction that Macbeth will be king. prediction: Lady Macbeth's mind is filled with "power and ambition," and she fears her "husband's too kind." This hints at the wife having a desire for her husband to be king sooner rather than later.
page 20	plot: Macbeth returns, and he and his wife discuss things. King Duncan will be arriving in the evening. Lady Macbeth tells her husband to hide his feelings and that "Duncan will not see the morning light." She tells him to leave everything to her. prediction: Lady Macbeth is planning to have the king killed so that her husband can be king, and she can be queen.

THE REST OF THE STORY / SEQUENCING

Use your own discretion in sharing the rest of the story. I did not read the entire book aloud due to time constraints.

In this activity, students attempt to sequence each set of plot cards *either before or as they listen* to the remainder of the story, told in condensed form in two parts. If you need a quick understanding of the story yourself, this link may help you prepare to for a retelling.

[Kid-Friendly Retelling](#)

(see script below video)

1. Pass out the **SET A** of the **PLOT SEQUENCE cards** (see next page) to student pairs or groups. Have them attempt to put them in order.

Read and share from the book, skimming through to give students the gist of the story. Students adjust the cards as you retell the story.

2. Repeat this with **SET B** of the cards. Check for proper order.

<p>I. Macbeth tries to talk to his wife, but Lady Macbeth calls him a coward and insists that they go forward with their plan.</p>	<p>A. Lady Macbeth scolds her husband when he shows carelessness in hiding the evidence of what he's done. She grabs the knives from him.</p>	<p>G. By running away, the sons appear guilty, so Macbeth is crowned the new king. However, he is now anxious his secret will be discovered.</p>
<p>F. Macbeth rushes from the banquet table, filled with guilt about his thoughts to stab and kill the king. He knows his ambition and greed are wrong.</p>	<p>H. The guards are drugged and Macbeth enters King Duncan's bedchamber and "does the deed."</p>	<p>B. News of the death spreads throughout the castle. Duncan's sons flee, fearing they will be next.</p>
<p>C. King Duncan, his sons, and attendants arrive, ready to enjoy a celebratory feast at Macbeth's castle.</p>	<p>D. Macbeth's conscience continues to scream to him not to go through with the crime. His mind plays tricks on him as he sees a bloody dagger in thin air.</p>	<p>E. Macduff, another hero of the battle, arrives at the castle the next morning. When he goes to greet the king, he finds him dead in his room.</p>

<p>A. Macbeth worries that someone will figure things out and try to kill him. He seeks advice from the hags, who speak in more riddles, but make Macbeth feel safer.</p>	<p>G. Lady Macbeth also suffers from a guilty conscience. She sees blood stains on her hands that are really not there.</p>	<p>E. Macduff becomes king, but later Banquo's son inherits the throne, just as the hags had predicted.</p>
<p>D. Macbeth sends three men to kill Banquo and his sons. They succeed in killing Banquo, but a son escapes.</p>	<p><u>Note to Teacher:</u> The correct sequencing in this set is not as easy. The main goal is for students to learn the rest of the story.</p>	<p>B. Macduff and Malcolm sneak up to Macbeth's castle behind trees (as the hags had suggested) and succeed in killing Macbeth.</p>
<p>H. Macbeth remembers that the hags had told Banquo his sons would be kings, that he would be happier than Macbeth. He plots to have Banquo killed as well.</p>	<p>F. Macbeth decides that Macduff is a concern, so he has his family killed, hoping the grief will distract Macduff. But it only enrages him.</p>	<p>C. Macbeth in his madness becomes a cruel tyrant. Macduff plots with Duncan's son Malcolm to do away with Macbeth.</p>