



Macbeth

The name Macbeth means “son of life”. Macbeth is possibly William Shakespeare's most popular work, as well as his shortest tragedy. The play is seen as an archetypal tale of the dangers of the lust for power and betrayal of friends. It is loosely based upon the historical account of King Macbeth of Scotland

THE PLOT. Complete the blanks to make a brief summary of the play.

Three _____ prophesy that Macbeth will be the _____ of Scotland and Banquo would father kings. When Macbeth reaches his castle, Lady Macbeth is plotting King _____'s death. Then Macbeth _____ the king. The king's _____, Prince Malcolm and Donalbain, fearing their own lives, flee Scotland. Macbeth, worried that Banquo's descendants will one day reign, resolves to murder him and his son, _____. He manages to escape but his _____ dies. New predictions are made. Prince Malcolm's troops approach the castle and defeats the king. He is the rightful heir now. The wicked reign of _____ and his ambitious _____ has just ended as has been prophesied. Scotland is at peace, ruled by a true and noble _____.

THE CHARACTERS. Write the name of the characters according to the clues given.

NAME	WHO?
	He is the heir to the Scottish throne.
	The sleeping king looked like her own father and she was unable to kill him.
	He had not been born by natural means, but by Caesarean birth.
	He slew the king.



NEW WORDS. Read these words. Which characters can they be applied to?

revenge

attacked by assassins

guilty

wicked reign

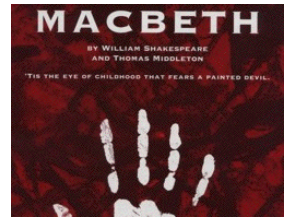
boiling hell-broth

CHARACTERS	NEW WORDS
Lady Macbeth	
Witches	
Macbeth	
MacDuff	
Fleance	

NEW WORDS. Write two meaningful sentences with these two words from the play.

(to) greet

throne



QUESTIONS. Answer these questions about the play.

1. Why is Lady Macbeth ambitious?
2. What is the witches' third prophesy?
3. Why do you think Macbeth kills Banquo?

WRITING. Take the part of the witches and make 2 new prophesies.