

14 – THE SECOND PROPHECIES

What does the second appearance by the witches do to atmosphere of the play?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A copy of Act 4 Scene 1 from Macbeth, to read either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Look at Act 4 Scene 1 from the appearance of the First Apparition to Macbeth's line 'filthy hags! / Why do you show me this?' and spot the four important things the witches show or tell Macbeth.
- Create four Mind Maps to illustrate Macbeth's thoughts and responses, focusing on the four new pieces of news he gets from them about the future. Draw a central image for each of these prophecies and label them with everything Macbeth thinks and feels about them. Use as many quotes from the scene as you can find.
- Ask yourself: Why has Macbeth chosen to go to the witches this time? What is different about the way he behaves towards them? Who or what is Hecate?

EXTENSION

- Write Hecate's song. In the stage directions for Macbeth, it says Hecate and the witches sing a song called Black Spirits. It doesn't include the music or lyrics. Read Hecate's speech from Act 4 Scene 1 out loud, it is only 5 lines, beginning 'O, well done!' Tap out the rhythm of the lines, making note of any rhyming words and images that are used.
- Using the rhythm and images as inspiration, write your own lyrics for Hecate's song. Remember to include a chorus and to try linking it to the title 'Black Spirits'.
- If you are particularly musical and play an instrument, see if you can create a melody for your lyrics.
- Record your song, adding any sound effects that you would like to help give it atmosphere.