

Resource A (edited text): **Macbeth in Ten Plot Points**

1. Macbeth meets the Witches

After a bloody battle, Macbeth and his friend Banquo meet three witches, who make three prophecies - Macbeth will be a thane, Macbeth will be king and Banquo's sons will be kings.

THIRD WITCH **Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!**

FIRST WITCH **Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!**

MACBETH **Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more**

2. Truth in the Prophecy?

The witches' first prophecy comes true and King Duncan makes Macbeth Thane of Cawdor.

ROSS **And, for an earnest of a greater honour,
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:**

BANQUO **What, can the devil speak true?**

MACBETH **The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me
In borrow'd robes?**

3. Lady Macbeth persuades Macbeth

When King Duncan visits Macbeth, Lady Macbeth persuades Macbeth to murder King Duncan in his sleep to make the second prophecy come true.

MACBETH **Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.**

LADY MACBETH **What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;**

4. The Murder is Discovered

With Lady Macbeth's help, Macbeth frames King Duncan's dead servants as the murderers. Duncan's children, Malcolm and Donalbain, flee for their own safety.

DONALBAIN **There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood,
The nearer bloody.**

MALCOLM **This murderous shaft that's shot
Hath not yet lighted, and our safest way
Is to avoid the aim.**

5. Plot to Murder Banquo

Now king, Macbeth worries about the witches' third prophecy and sends murderers to kill Banquo and his son.

MURDERERS **We are resolved, my lord.**

MACBETH **I'll call upon you straight: abide within.** *(Exit Murderers)*

**It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight,
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.**

6. Macbeth sees Banquo's Ghost

At a banquet, Macbeth is haunted by visions of Banquo's ghost in front of all his guests.

MACBETH **Hence, horrible shadow!
Unreal mockery, hence!** *(Banquo's Ghost vanishes)*

**Why, so: being gone,
I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.**

LADY MACBETH **You have displaced the mirth, broke the good meeting,
With most admired disorder.**

7. Macbeth Questions the Witches

Macbeth visits the witches and they tell him: the only person he needs to beware of is Macduff, 'no man of woman born' can harm him and he won't be defeated until Birnam Wood moves. He thinks he's unbeatable.

APPARITION **Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn
The power of man, for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.**

MACBETH **Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live**

8. Macbeth has Macduff's Family Murdered

While Macduff is in England convincing Duncan's heir, Malcolm, to fight against Macbeth, Macbeth has Macduff's family murdered.

MACDUFF **Sinful Macduff,
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,
Fell slaughter on their souls. Heaven rest them now!**

MALCOLM **Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief
Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.**

9. Burnham Wood Moves

Macduff and Malcolm return with an army. On their way to attack Macbeth's castle they cut down branches from the trees in Birnam Wood to use as camouflage. When the wood moves, Macbeth's confidence fails.

MESSENGER **As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,
The wood began to move.**

MACBETH **Liar and slave!**

MESSENGER **Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so:
Within this three mile may you see it coming;
I say, a moving grove.**

10. Macbeth is Killed

Macduff reveals that he was born by caesarean and kills Macbeth, fulfilling the final prophecy.

MACDUFF **Despair thy charm;
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.**

MACBETH **Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
Lay on, Macduff,
And damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'**