

10minutetales

MACBETH ACT 1 – 10 MINUTE TALES IN ACTION

(NARRATOR, WITCH, MACBETH, LADY MACBETH)

A BLASTED HEAT. LIGHTNING FLASHES. THE NARRATOR LOOKS ON

NARRATOR

THE LIGHTNING FLASHED AS RED AS BLOOD ACROSS THE PURPLE MORNING SKY. IT LIT THE LITTLE GROUP OF SHAPELESS, GRUESOME FIGURES AS THEY HUDDLED ROUND A CAULDRON CHANTING ...

WITCH

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

NARRATOR

The heath was empty as the witches worked their spells.
Until Macbeth, the hero soldier, appeared and splashed across the moor.

WITCH

By the pricking of my thumbs,
There's something wicked this way comes.
Macbeth!

MACBETH MARCHES DOWN THE PATH. HE SMELLS THE WITCHES' EVIL BREW AND SEES THE SMOKE RISE.

MACBETH

Speak, if you can: what are you?

WITCH

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

MACBETH

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
To be king Stands not within the prospect of belief,
Speak, I charge you.

WITCHES VANISH

NARRATOR

To be the king was more than he had dreamed; Macbeth returned to his grey castle halls Where in the torch-lit room his waiting wife Gave him the news that Scotland's ageing monarch, Duncan, would arrive to stay that very night.

MACBETH

My dearest love, Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH

O, never shall sun that morrow see!

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late;

LADY MACBETH

Art thou afeard
Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'

MACBETH

Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.
If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
And we'll not fail.

NARRATOR

So Lord Macbeth then plotted with his wife
The way to murder Duncan as he slept