

Name _____



Witches' Words

One dark and stormy night, three eerie witches stood in the misty fields of Scotland. They had pale faces, wild hair, and voices like the wind. As thunder rumbled, they spoke in strange riddles, predicting the future. Suddenly, two brave warriors, Macbeth and Banquo, arrived. They had just won a great battle and were on their way home when they saw the witches.

"Hail, Macbeth! Thane of Glamis!" the first witch called.

"Hail, Macbeth! Thane of Cawdor!" said the second.

"Hail, Macbeth! King hereafter!" the third finished.

Macbeth was confused. He was already Thane of Glamis, but he wasn't Thane of Cawdor or the king. How could the witches know his future? Banquo asked about his own fate. The witches told him that he would never be king, but his descendants would rule. Before the men could ask more, the witches vanished into the fog.

Soon after, Macbeth learned that the King of Scotland had named him Thane of Cawdor—just as the witches predicted. Excited and curious, Macbeth wondered if the last part of the prophecy—becoming king—could also come true. His wife, Lady Macbeth, pushed him to act. She convinced him that he must take control of his fate. That night, Macbeth secretly killed King Duncan and took the throne.

But Macbeth was not at peace. He remembered that the witches said Banquo's children would rule one day. Fearing he might lose power, Macbeth ordered Banquo and his son to be killed. Banquo was slain, but his son escaped.

Worried about the future, Macbeth visited the witches again. This time, they told him three things: beware of Macduff, no man born of a woman could harm him, and he would be safe until a forest moved toward his castle. Macbeth felt invincible—after all, no one could change the way they were born, and forests don't move.

But the witches' words were tricky. Macduff had been delivered by surgery, not a normal birth. His army cut tree branches to hide their attack, making the forest appear to move. In the end, Macbeth fell in battle.

Did the witches control Macbeth's fate, or did he make his own choices? Their words tempted him, but he was the one who chose to act. Perhaps fate isn't written in stone—it is shaped by the choices we make.