

Name _____



Power's Curse

Long ago in Scotland, there was a brave and loyal warrior named Macbeth. He fought for his king, Duncan, and won many battles. One day, after a great victory, Macbeth and his friend Banquo met three strange witches. These witches spoke in riddles and made a shocking prediction: Macbeth would become king! At first, Macbeth laughed at the idea, but soon, part of the prophecy came true—he was given a new title, the Thane of Cawdor. This made him wonder: Could he really become king?

Macbeth's wife, Lady Macbeth, was even more excited about the prophecy. She wanted her husband to take the throne right away. "You must act now!" she told him. Lady Macbeth convinced Macbeth that if he wanted power, he had to take it. That night, they carried out a terrible plan—Macbeth murdered King Duncan in his sleep.

At first, Macbeth was afraid. He imagined he heard voices saying, "Macbeth shall sleep no more!" But after becoming king, his fear turned into something worse—greed. Macbeth was no longer the noble man he once was. He began to worry that someone would take his power away. He remembered that the witches said Banquo's children would be kings one day. This made Macbeth angry. He decided that Banquo and his son must be killed. Banquo was murdered, but his son escaped.

The more Macbeth ruled, the more cruel he became. He sent soldiers to attack the family of a nobleman named Macduff, who was a threat to his power. He no longer listened to his wife's advice. Even Lady Macbeth, who had once pushed him toward power, was now overcome with guilt. She began to sleepwalk, whispering about blood on her hands.

Meanwhile, Macduff and Duncan's son, Malcolm, raised an army against Macbeth. They marched toward his castle, using tree branches to hide their numbers. Macbeth remembered another of the witches' prophecies: He would be safe until the forest moved. When he saw the approaching army, he realized the witches had tricked him.

In the end, Macbeth's hunger for power led to his downfall. Macduff, who was born in an unusual way, defeated him in battle. Macbeth's story teaches us that power gained through greed and violence only leads to destruction. Instead of making him strong, power had made him weak, fearful, and alone.