



Forest Discovery Day - Macbeth Madness

Year Group(s) KS2- upper

Venue Gorcott Hill

Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reinforce the story of Macbeth through drama techniques. To begin to study the language of Shakespeare.
Links to National Curriculum Programme(s) of Study:	<p><u>English</u> *To increase familiarity with a wide range of books including fiction from our literary heritage. *To identify and discuss themes within fiction. *To prepare poems and plays to read aloud and perform.</p> <p><u>Science</u> *To explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda.</p>
Key Questions/ points:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I can retell the main point points of the story of Macbeth including recognising the themes of the supernatural and ambition. I am able to work with a group to produce a drama whereby my performance includes the use of tone, intonation and volume to display a character and their motives. I understand that drama is all about facial expression and body position, as well as voice. I can think about what some Shakespearean words may mean today.
<p>Programme of Activities: These will be the types of activities on offer. However, they may be subject to change depending on timings and the age/ experience of the children.</p> <p>Acquaintance with the story *Whoosh drama around the fire circle- everyone takes part in the drama, entering the fire circle when they are pointed at. They will act out the words and say any words in bold. Whoosh clears the fire circle ready for the next scene. Check that they have understood the story. (If more reinforcement is needed, there is a freeze frame activity which pulls out the main events.)</p> <p>The next activities pull out key scenes from the story.</p> <p>Battle Soundscape</p>	



This activity will use both sound and freeze-framing techniques. In freeze frames the positioning of the body and facial expression is really important to convey feelings and intention as there is no movement or speech:

*ready for battle: in pairs the children decide on a freeze frame that the soldiers will be in as the two armies face each other ready for the signal.

*3 battle sounds: think about the sounds that you might hear on a medieval battle field and create them with bodies, sticks etc

*greet each other tired but victorious- in pairs imagine they are Macbeth and Banquo. They create a freeze frame as if they are greeting each other at the end of the battle.

*see something weird- freeze frame of their reactions when they see the three sisters.

*three sisters: create a pose and move for the witches, as they chant, 'All hail Macbeth and Banquo!'

Language and character study

Look at Lady Macbeth and how she insults Macbeth in trying to convince him to murder King Duncan. Look at several key words from the passage. What do they mean?

GOLDEN OPINIONS	A FEARED	PEACE!
SCREW YOUR COURAGE TO THE STICKING PLACE	THIS TERRIBLE FEAT	FALSE FACE MUST HIDE WHAT THE FALSE HEART MUST KNOW

What is Macbeth like at this moment in time? Why has he been so easily persuaded by Lady Macbeth? Talk about the theme of ambition corrupting a good man. This is Macbeth's fatal flaw that leads to his downfall.

Create a soundscape with pairs reading the two parts- walk through the woods saying the words in character.

Banquet Scene

Look at the scene where Macbeth sees Banquo after he has murdered him. This is another apparition scene following on from the dagger, then we have Lady Macbeth's hands later when she feels guilt and is trying to wash the blood off: 'Out damned spot'. The supernatural is another theme within Macbeth. This is due to people's belief in at the time and the fact that King James 1 even wrote a book on witches called Demonology. Witches were believed to cause all the bad luck- many women were tried for being witches. This links to the disruption of nature- 'Great chain of being' and 'Divine right of Kings'. Macbeth disrupts that and storms follow.

Create drama for the banquet in groups using the forest for props. How would stage managers create a ghost?

A witchy crew!

Compare the witchy rap with the original text. Count the syllables in each line of them to look at the beat of the verse.

*In the original it has the couplet (8 syllables) and then the spell ingredients are 7.

The rap has 10 followed by 6. 10 is blank verse or iambic pentameter. Shakespeare used it a lot of it in his poems and plays. It mirrors the way we speak and follows the rhythm de-DUM.

Learn the rap song for the sisters. Add in beats from forest.



Make own verse to add on and perform. Can either follow the structure of the rap or the original.

[song_05.pdf \(bbci.co.uk\)](#)

The fall of Macbeth

Look at the words used in text for how characters refer to Macbeth at the start and the end of the play.

Create two pictures out of natural materials on the ground: one Macbeth at the start; second Macbeth at the end. Think about body position, facial expression.

Birnam Woods comes to Dunsinane: games

Camouflage:

*Hide a member of your group in the woods using natural materials as camouflage.

*Play camouflage game.

Having looked at activities to recreate the main scenes, we will now look at various science, art and DT activities.

Witches' potions

Create various potions: fizzing, slime, colour change. (baking soda and vinegar, chia seeds, red cabbage water) Talk about the reactions taking place in the potions to link in to Science.

[Witches Potions for Halloween \(science-sparks.com\)](#)

[Potions Class Experiments.pdf](#)

Firework wand

Get different coloured fire by making firework wands with different chemicals.

[Discover the Flaming Colors of Fireworks | STEM Activity \(sciencebuddies.org\)](#)

Macbeth's Crown

Create a willow wreath or other crown for Macbeth. Decorate with natural materials that would befit the person that he is.

Bloody daggers and hands!

Make fake blood. Use this to put on hand cut-outs for Lady Macbeth's 'out wicked spot'. Whittle a dagger to add the blood too as well!

[9 Easy Fake Blood Recipes \(thesprucecrafts.com\)](#)