

*Macbeth* Act I

1. The Weird Sisters gather on the heath and introduce the concept of fair is foul.
2. Duncan asks for an update about the battle between Scottish troops and Norway.
3. We learn that Macbeth is valiant in battle in fighting Macdonwald (nave to chops) and that when Norway's troops are reinforced, both Macbeth and Banquo act bravely (as lions afraid of hares) in defending Scotland and being loyal to Duncan.
4. The Thane of Cawdor has been identified as a traitor. Captured, he will be executed for his treasonous act, and Macbeth will be given his title: Thane of Cawdor.
5. Macbeth and Banquo encounter the Weird Sisters on the heath and Macbeth is greeted by three titles: Glamis, Cawdor and King.
6. Banquo gets sloppy seconds: less but greater, not as happy but happier, father of kings but not king himself.
7. Macbeth demands more of the witches, so they POOF.
8. Ross and Angus arrive and tell Macbeth that he is now Thane of Cawdor and that Duncan wants to see him: (the greatest is behind him and now he starts thinking about murder).
9. We learn that the Thane of Cawdor goes to his death (execution) as if his life were meaningless and that he was a man who Duncan had placed way too much trust... foreshadowing
10. Duncan praises Banquo and Macbeth for their loyalty and says he has great plans for their futures, but he also announces that he is appointing his elder son Malcolm as Prince of Cumberland, which is now a wrinkle in Macbeth's plan, a step he must leaf over or give up his plan to try.
11. Macbeth writes Lady Macbeth to tell her of the witches' prophecies and although she is excited at the prospect of becoming queen, she fears Macbeth is too nice a guy in that he has the ambition but not the ruthlessness to kill the king.
12. Duncan will be staying at Macbeth's castle that night; thus motive and opportunity are now evident as is dramatic irony as Duncan is so happy and generous in his role as guest.
13. Macbeth hesitates about killing Duncan for a number of different reasons; kinship; loyalty; guest in home; good king; reputation of Macbeth will be ruined and he has no legitimate reason to do so.
14. Macbeth decides against killing Duncan.
15. Lady Macbeth does not! So in order to keep Macbeth on side she insults his manhood, calls him a coward (emasculates him) and claims she would kill her own breast-feeding baby if it meant she could get ahead in life.
16. Lady Macbeth plans to get the guards drunk, smear their passed-out bodies with Duncan's blood and plant their bloody daggers on them as evidence they killed the king.

Ryan Snodden weather update:

moonless night; no stars; very dark.  
Things get hot, hot, hot in the Castle!

## *Macbeth* Act II

1. Banquo and Fleance retire to bed, upon commenting on the unusual weather, the very dark skies representative of pathetic fallacy. Banquo tells Macbeth he has been thinking about the Weird Sisters to which Macbeth replies he has not thought of them at all.
2. Macbeth's famous soliloquy about the dagger now occurs. He is uncertain whether the dagger is real or not, but the thing to consider is the direction of the dagger; the handle toward him and the blade outward facing.
3. Lady Macbeth has gotten the guards liquored up; she had a little nip herself. She says had Duncan not looked so much like her father, she would have done it herself.
4. Macbeth returns to tell her Duncan is dead. (In case you missed it, scene ii, line 18.)
5. He is incredibly edgy and startled by every sound. He claims he cannot say Amen or God bless and wonders aloud why that is...because he killed unnaturally and outside the normal order of things, outside of the state of God's grace, making Macbeth disgraced (removed from the state of God...my theory).
6. He claims he has murdered sleep.
7. Lady Macbeth tells him to pull himself together, that he needs to plant the bloody daggers next to the guards to frame them and to wash the blood from his hands.
8. Macbeth refuses to go back into the bed chamber, so Lady Macbeth goes and while Macbeth laments he will never be able to wash his hands clean, she airily states that a little water will clean it all up, no problem!
9. Knock, knock, knocking on Macbeth's door, which is answered by the Porter who lets Macduff and Lennox into the castle.
10. Again, comment on how strange the weather was the night before and then Macduff lets out a cry of horror that the King is dead.
11. Everyone is awoken and when Lady Macbeth asks what is happening, Macduff says it is news not fitting for a woman (dramatic irony).
12. Malcolm and Donalbain learn that their father has been killed by the guards, but they cannot know for certain because in his anger/grief, etc., Macbeth has killed the guards, because, as the saying goes, "dead men tell no tales."
13. People do not seem to fully believe this so as a distraction, Lady Macbeth faints.
14. The men all agree to meet to discuss the events but Malcolm and Donalbain stay back, recognizing grief is an easy thing to fake if one is a murderer and that their lives are at stake, so they agree to separate, with Malcolm going to England and Donalbain to Ireland.
15. Strange occurrences in the natural world parallel what has taken place (a mousing owl killing a falcon, Duncan's horses attacking each other.) It speaks of an unsettled Scotland where Malcolm and Donalbain 'appear' guilty of their father's murder and Macbeth is about to be crowned King at Scone.
16. Macduff publically shows he believes Macbeth had something to do with Duncan's murder by not attending the investiture at Scone but heading home to his castle in Fife instead.

### *Macbeth* Act III

1. Act opens with Banquo musing that all that the Witches predicted has come true for Macbeth, which means, all things being equal, he will be the father of kings.
2. There is to be a banquet that evening with Banquo as the guest of honor.
3. Macbeth asks Banquo three key questions: is he going riding; how far is he going riding, and is Fleance going with him.
4. Then Macbeth meets with two hired murderers who are to kill Banquo and who fall for Macbeth's story that all accusations put before the old king concerning their criminal actions were the fault of Banquo and not Macbeth, like they had thought.
5. The murderers eagerly agree they will kill both Banquo and Fleance.
6. Macbeth wants Banquo dead to get rid of the only eye-witness to the encounter with the witches and Fleance dead to thwart the prediction about Banquo's sons being kings. He doesn't want the throne to slip from his family after the trouble he took to get (seize) it.
7. Lady Macbeth is looking for Macbeth. She comments on his troubled sleep and on how he is keeping his distance. He is not as open in telling her his plans (schemes) as he had been in plotting the murder of Duncan.
8. They agree to put on their best party faces for the banquet for Banquo. Macbeth tells her he is troubled about Banquo and Fleance and Lady Macbeth says to let it go, that they cannot live forever.
9. Nighttime in the park beyond the castle, Banquo calls for a light as it is so dark and he is then attacked by three (not two) murderers, as Macbeth sent someone else along to oversee the attack.
10. Banquo is mortally wounded but Fleance gets away.
11. Back to the banquet: Macbeth is late (because he was learning from one of the murderers what had happened) and when he goes to take his seat, he sees it occupied by Banquo.
12. Thing is, no one else notices the ghost so Macbeth appears deranged, talking to an empty chair as Banquo's ghost comes and goes.
13. Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to pull things together, that once again he is acting like a cowardly woman. Macbeth replies by saying what could be manlier than being brave enough to stand up to a ghost?!
14. However, that is not enough to save the banquet, so the lords leave, confused about Macbeth's behavior, despite Lady Macbeth's attempts to cover for him.
15. Macbeth resolves to visit the Wyrd Sister again to demand further information from them.
16. Meanwhile, the witches have their own problems: their queen, Hecate, is very annoyed with them for playing with the dark arts in such a way that is not for their benefit, but for the likes of a nothing like Macbeth.
17. Hecate plans to make Macbeth's downfall a result of their luring him in to hearing what he wants to hear.
18. Lennox's speech reveals a growing number of people in Scotland believe Macbeth has had a hand in the murders of Duncan and Banquo, that Donalbain, Malcolm and Fleance would likely meet the same outcome if Macbeth could find them.
19. The other lord reveals that Macduff has gone to England to persuade Malcolm to return with troops to fight Macbeth. We learn that once again, Macduff has refused to come to Macbeth.

## *Macbeth* Act IV

1. Witches create their brew. No Jamie Oliver recipe here, but a lot of protein as there is all kinds of body parts. It is meant to create a hallucinatory effect.
2. Macbeth arrives as expected and proceeds to watch four visions;
  - a. An armed head which warns him to be afraid of Macduff; that Macduff is the one who will get him
  - b. A bloody child who says that Macbeth need not fear any man born of a woman.  
  
(B appears to cancel A, so there is no fear of Macduff).
  - c. A crowned child carrying a tree who tells Macbeth he has nothing at all to fear until the forest of Birnam Wood march to his castle on high Dunsinane Hill
  - d. A parade of eight kings, all descendants of Banquo who is at the end of the parade carrying a mirror which hold a reflection of a parade of kings...
3. So, Macbeth figures he is sweet and clear, although he is upset to see that Banquo's line is still set up to be kings.
4. The witches disappear and we learn from Lennox, who in Act III was showing he did not believe Macbeth was rightful king, that Macduff has left Scotland. He seems to be a little two-faced in all of this.
5. Macbeth swears retaliation in the form of an attack on Macduff's castle at Fife in which all his family will be killed.
6. Which is precisely what happens.
7. Macduff travels to England to persuade Malcolm to return, but before Malcolm will agree he puts Macduff to a test as to how terrible a ruler he is; that he is far worse than Macbeth and not fit to be ruler. None of this is true, but he strings Macduff along so long that poor Macduff feels he has nowhere to turn and that Scotland is doomed.
8. Malcolm finally admits he was just testing Macduff and that he has at least 10000 men ready to fight.
9. We hear how great the King of England is (Edward the Confessor) who has tremendous healing powers; it is intended to contrast the reign of Macbeth and show what a rotten state Scotland is in.
10. Ross enters the Court with news of Macduff's family; this is a great example of dramatic irony in that he keeps saying they are well.
11. Now Macduff has a deeply personal motivation to defeat Macbeth.
12. Malcolm, not being a husband or father, does not get the depth of Macduff's sorrow but keeps telling him to use this emotion as a means of revenge.
13. Onward to Scotland!

*Macbeth Act V*

1. Lady Macbeth has been observed sleepwalking and revealing information about the many murders, all the while washing her hands. Ironic in consideration of how she mocked Macbeth immediately after the death of Duncan, arrogantly saying a little water would clear them of their deeds.

2.

25. Lennox reveals that Macduff has gone to England to raise troops to fight against Macbeth. ( )

