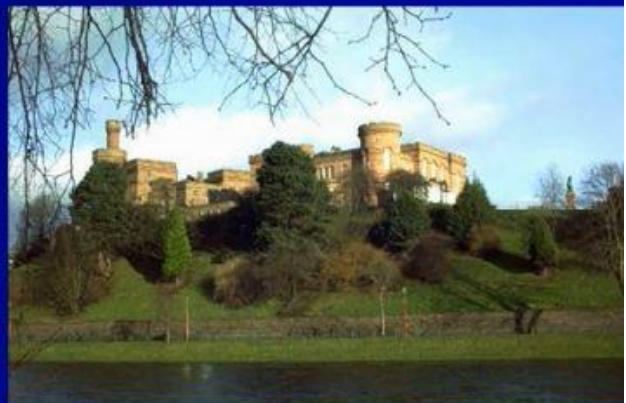


MACBETH – WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
ACTWISE SUMMARY



- Macbeth receives prophecies from 3 witches
- Witches tell Macbeth he will become Thane of Cawdor then King
- Banquo's sons will be kings
- Lady Macbeth urges Macbeth to kill King Duncan
- Macbeth's conscience tells him not to kill the King
- Macbeth agrees to kill Duncan due to his ambition and his wife's manipulation

- Duncan stays at Macbeth's castle (Inverness) for the night
- Macbeth and Lady Macbeth act like good hosts for King Duncan
- They plan to kill Duncan in his sleep



- Lady Macbeth gets Duncan's guards drunk
- Macbeth murders Duncan in his bed chamber
- Macbeth hears a voice that tells him he will never sleep again
- He tries to wash Duncan's blood from his hands but cannot erase his evil deed
- Macduff discovers Duncan is dead
- Malcolm & Donalbain flee the country

- "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather/The multitudinous seas incarnadine,/Making the green one red" (2.2.60-63)- Macbeth
- "My hands are of your colour; but I shame/to wear a heart so white" (2.2.64-65) – Lady Macbeth

-Macbeth feels threatened by Banquo and the witches' prophesy about Banquo's sons becoming king

- Macbeth wants more power and hires murderers to kill Banquo and son, Fleance

- **Role Reversal:** Lady Macbeth does not tell Macbeth to kill Banquo.
- Macbeth's ambition leads him to have Banquo killed.
- Murderers kill Banquo, but Fleance escapes
- Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost at feast
- HE IS LOSING HIS MIND FROM GUILT!!!
- Lady Macbeth covers up for her husband's madness and plays it cool

- “Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill” (3.2.55)- Macbeth



(Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost at the feast)



- Macbeth seeks the witches to find out more info
- Witches tell him 3 things:
  - Beware Macduff, Thane of Fife
  - No man born of woman can kill Macbeth
  - Macbeth won't be killed until Burnham Wood meets Dunsinane Hill
- Macbeth plans to kill Macduff and his family

- Lady Macduff is angry that her husband fled to England without his family
- Thinks he did something bad and is a traitor
- Macbeth hires murderers to kill Macduff and his wife and children
- The murderers succeed in killing Lady Macduff and her children
- Macduff is not murdered
- Ross tells Macduff about his wife and kids

Guilt!!!



“Out, damned spot!  
Out, I say!”

(5.1.31-32) – Lady

## Act V

- Lady Macbeth suffers from insanity and cannot sleep
- Macduff and Malcolm plot with English army to oust Macbeth from the throne
- Macbeth feels safe until Birnam Wood meets Dunsinane (as in witch's prophecy)
- Lady Macbeth dies, Macbeth is indifferent
- Macduff fights Macbeth and kills him
- Macduff was born by caesarian section, so prophecy came true- he was not “born of woman”