

## Macbeth – The Play of Many Changes

1. The play begins with great hope and celebration with the defeat of traitors of King Duncan.
2. The mood changes – from celebration to gloom – with the appearance of the THREE witches and their intentions to “mess” with Macbeth.
3. Macbeth and Banquo are seen as heroes. Macbeth is given the title of Thane of Cawdor.
4. The witches give another element of evil when they tell Macbeth that he will become the next King of Scotland, while telling Banquo his children will become kings.
5. Lady Macbeth, upon reading about the news in a letter sent from her husband, is the instigator of the evil (“Come you spirits”.etc) by continuing to plant the seed in her husband’s head. (“You are not a man.”)
6. In essence, Macbeth takes the ideas from his “partner in greatness” and proceeds to make sure the path is clear to the throne.
7. After Duncan’s death, Banquo and his son, Fleance, find themselves next because Banquo suspects something in “the delicate air.” Remember, Banquo will never become king, but his son will.
8. Macbeth is soon tortured by Banquo’s ghost, which should be an indication that all is not well.
9. Malcolm and Donalbain, Duncan’s sons and the rightful heirs to the throne, escape to Ireland and England to build an army to overthrow King Macbeth. (Remember: DIME)
10. Macbeth, in an act of extreme cruelty, executes all of MacDuff’s family.
11. Lady Macbeth suffers a nervous breakdown and kills herself, to which Macbeth’s reaction is, “Yeah, so?” (“She should have died....”)
12. Macduff leads the army against Macbeth, and since he is not born of woman, he kills Macbeth.
13. The Great Chain of Being is then restored.