**Act 1, Scene 1 – The Witches**

**A desert place.**

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. What does the adverb ‘again’ suggest about the witches?
3. What mood is established at the beginning of the play? How is this mood established? Answer as annotations, highlighting specific examples of language that help to create this mood.
4. Who or what are Graymalkin and Paddock? What does this tell you about the world of the play?
5. How would a contemporary audience react to this opening? Why do you think this is? Consider what life was like at the time and how this would dictate what people believed in.
6. Why do you think Shakespeare has the witches talk in rhyming, **paradoxical** couplets? What is the effect and what does it tell you about the witches?

**\*Paradoxical** – Contradictory

*Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches*

**First Witch**

When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

**Second Witch**

When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won.

**Third Witch**

That will be ere the set of sun.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**First Witch**

Where the place?

**Second Witch**

Upon the heath.

**Third Witch**

There to meet with Macbeth.

**First Witch**

I come, Graymalkin!

**Second Witch**

Paddock calls.

**Third Witch**

Anon.

**ALL**

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:  
Hover through the fog and filthy air.