**Act 1, Scene 3** **– The Prophecies (Part 2)**

**Activities:**

1. What is a ‘thane’? Look up the definition and write it on this sheet.
2. What are the connotations of the noun, ‘King’? Why is this prophecy going to be appealing to Macbeth?
3. Why do you think Banquo’s prophecies are more confusing than Macbeth’s? What does it imply about the future of the play?
4. The witches ignore Macbeth’s command to stay. What does this tell you about a)the witches and b)Macbeth?
5. Highlight the supernatural elements in this scene. What language devices are used to present them? What is the effect?
6. How does Shakespeare register the psychological responses of Banquo and Macbeth? What do the questions ‘Whither…?’, ‘Were…?’ and ‘Have we…?’ tell the audience about Macbeth and Banquo’s reaction to the prophecies?

**First Witch**

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

**Second Witch**

Not so happy, yet much happier.

**Third Witch**

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

**First Witch**

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

**MACBETH**

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence  
You owe this strange intelligence? or why  
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you. *Witches vanish*

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**BANQUO**

The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,  
And these are of them. Whither are they vanish'd?

**MACBETH**

Into the air; and what seem'd corporal melted  
As breath into the wind. Would they had stay'd!

**BANQUO**

Were such things here as we do speak about?  
Or have we eaten on the insane root  
That takes the reason prisoner?

**MACBETH**

Your children shall be kings.

**BANQUO**

You shall be king.