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

**Activities:**

1. What is happening here?
2. What are the connotations of the noun, ‘Devil’? How could you argue that Banquo is aware of some supernatural force at work here?
3. Highlight the metaphor used by Macbeth. What does it mean/suggest?
4. The witches ignore Macbeth’s command to stay. What does this tell you about a)the witches and b)Macbeth?
5. Why do you think it is important for one of the prophecies to quickly come true? What do you think this news does to Macbeth?
6. Why do you think Macbeth’s final line in this section is spoken as an ‘aside’? What would it imply about the way he is feeling and what he is thinking?

**ROSS**

And, for an earnest of a greater honour,  
[Duncan] bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:  
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!  
For it is thine.

**BANQUO**

What, can the devil speak true?

**MACBETH**

The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me  
In borrow'd robes?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**ANGUS**

Who was the thane lives yet;  
But under heavy judgment bears that life  
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was combined  
With those of Norway, or did line the rebel  
With hidden help and vantage, or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not;  
But treasons capital, confess'd and proved,  
Have overthrown him.

**MACBETH**

[Aside] Glamis, and thane of Cawdor!  
The greatest is behind.

*To ROSS and ANGUS*

Thanks for your pains.