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

**Activities:**

1. Why do you think Macbeth’s first line recalls the first scene where we meet the witches? (‘Fair is foul and foul is fair’)
2. Highlight Banquo’s description of the witches. What does the language used suggest about them? Explain your ideas as annotations.
3. What does Macbeth’s use of the imperative, ‘speak’ suggest about him?
4. What is Macbeth’s initial reaction to the prophecies?
5. What is Banquo’s reaction to the prophecies?
6. How will a contemporary audience react to the prophecies given to Macbeth? Why would they react in this way?
7. **Extra Challenge:** Do you think these prophecies are true or do you think Macbeth uses them as an excuse to carry out his evil deeds later in the play? Explain your ideas.

**MACBETH**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**BANQUO**

How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these  
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,  
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,  
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught  
That man may question? You seem to understand me,  
By each at once her chappy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,  
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret  
That you are so.

**MACBETH**

INCREASING CHALLENGE

Speak, if you can: what are you?

**First Witch**

All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

**Second Witch**

All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

**Third Witch**

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

**BANQUO**

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction  
Of noble having and of royal hope,  
That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not.  
If you can look into the seeds of time,  
And say which grain will grow and which will not,  
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear  
Your favours nor your hate.