**Act 4, Scene 1 – The New Prophecies (Part 2)**

**Second Apparition**

Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn
The power of man, for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

*Descends*

**MACBETH**

Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;
That I may tell pale-hearted fear it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder.

*Thunder. Third Apparition: a Child crowned, with a tree in his hand*

What is this
That rises like the issue of a king,
And wears upon his baby-brow the round
And top of sovereignty?

**ALL**

Listen, but speak not to't.

**Third Apparition**

Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

*Descends*

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?

2. The first apparition to appear is that of an ‘armed head.’ What are the connotations of armour?

3.The second apparition to appear is that of ‘a bloody child’. What could blood symbolise here? What are the connotations of ‘child’?

4.The third apparition to appear is a ‘child crowned with a tree in his hand’. What are the connotations of ‘crown’ and what do you think the ‘tree’ could symbolise?

5. After hearing the new prophecies, how do you think Macbeth will be feeling at this point? Try and use the following words in your answer:

*-hubristic*

*-unrivalled*

*-powerful*

6. Why do you think Shakespeare juxtaposes the image of youthful innocence (children) with death, warfare and blood through the apparitions? What effect does this have?

7. How does this scene act as the catalyst which drives the play to its end?

**ALL**

Come, high or low;
Thyself and office deftly show!

*Thunder. First Apparition: an armed Head*

**MACBETH**

Tell me, thou unknown power,--

**First Witch**

He knows thy thought:
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

**First Apparition**

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

*Descends*

**MACBETH**

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;
Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: but one
word more,--

**First Witch**

He will not be commanded: here's another,
More potent than the first.

*Thunder. Second Apparition: A bloody Child*

**Second Apparition**

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!

**MACBETH**

Had I three ears, I'ld hear thee.