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

**Activities:**

1. What is happening in this scene?

2. How does Macbeth describe the witches? What are the connotations of these adjectives? Highlight them and explain as annotations on the sheet.

3. Macbeth’s entrance is incredibly bold compared to the first time he met the witches. Why do you think this is? What does it suggest about him?

4. Macbeth ‘conjures’ the witches to answer him. What is the significance of this verb?

5. Why do you think Macbeth has gone to visit the witches again? (Consider whether he is greedy for more knowledge or whether he fears his power may not last).

6. Look at the highlighted section. How does Macbeth acknowledge the power of the witches here? How do you think an audience would respond to the witches when they learn more of what they can do?

**MACBETH**

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!  
What is't you do?

**ALL**

A deed without a name.

**MACBETH**

I conjure you, by that which you profess,  
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me:  
**Though you untie the winds and let them fight****Against the churches; though the yesty waves****Confound and swallow navigation up;****Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down;****Though castles topple on their warders' heads;****Though palaces and pyramids do slope****Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure****Of nature's germens tumble all together,****Even till destruction** sicken; answer me  
To what I ask you.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

**First Witch**

Speak.

**Second Witch**

Demand.

**Third Witch**

We'll answer.

**First Witch**

Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,  
Or from our masters?