

# LESSON PLAN

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## MACBETH • WORKSHEET

### CHAPTER 2 – THE MURDER OF THE KING

After the big battle, King Duncan decide to go and visit Macbeth at his castle. Macbeth, who is on his way home, is very pleased to hear this. He immediately writes a letter to his wife asking her to get everything ready for the visit. He also tells her about the three witches and what they predicted about his future.

#### Exercise 1 – BEFORE YOU READ

Match these words from the text to their meaning.

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ 1. for the sake of    | a. shook or trembled             |
| ■ 2. blame the soldiers | b. in the interest of            |
| ■ 3. Dare               | c. say that they are responsible |
| ■ 4. Shuddered          | d. have the courage              |

#### Exercise 2 – READING

Read the first part of the extract.

Lady Macbeth read her husband's letter with great interest. 'Thane of Cawdor, and then king,' she thought. 'But I know you, husband,' she said to herself. 'You want to be king, but you don't want to do anything wicked to become king. Your nature is too gentle to be really ambitious. This is a great opportunity for us. Hurry home, my love, and I'll teach you to be cruel for the sake of your ambition. I'll put courage into you!'

When Macbeth and the king arrived at the castle, Lady Macbeth had already made a plan. She told her husband that he had to act very cheerfully and innocently—she had made a plan to make him king.

'Leave everything to me,' she said. 'Duncan will never leave the castle alive!'

Macbeth listened to his wife. 'It's true,' he thought, 'I want to be king but I don't want to kill Duncan—I'm frightened! He's my king and my guest here in the castle. To murder him would be a terrible crime!'

He argued with Lady Macbeth. 'We cannot kill the king,' he told her. 'He has been a good friend to me and I can't murder him.' Lady Macbeth was very angry with her husband.

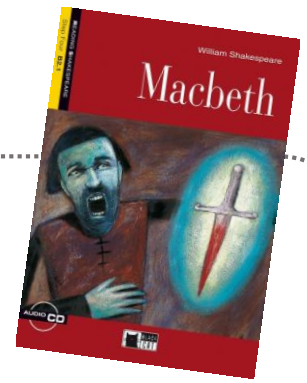
'Why did you tell me about the three witches?' she demanded angrily. 'They called you "king", didn't they? Be brave and you can have the throne!'

'But if we fail?' Macbeth asked her. 'What happens to us if we fail?'



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### Exercise 3 – READING

Read the second part of the extract.

‘We won’t fail,’ said Lady Macbeth. ‘I have a plan. Duncan’s room is guarded by two soldiers. I’ll make sure that the soldiers are given a lot of wine tonight, and I’ll put something in the wine to make them sleep very heavily. They won’t know what’s happening. You’ll be able to walk past them and into the king’s room without anyone seeing you. Then you can kill Duncan and we’ll blame the soldiers for the murder.’

‘You’re right!’ Macbeth said excitedly. ‘If the king is killed with the soldiers’ knives, everyone will think they’re guilty.’

‘Exactly,’ Lady Macbeth said. ‘Who would dare to say that you and I knew anything about it? People might suspect us, but they could never say anything.’ Late that night Macbeth was alone in the castle. He was thinking about the murder when suddenly he saw a knife in front of him. The knife was red with blood. He was frightened. When he looked again, the knife was gone. ‘It was just my imagination,’ he said to himself. ‘There was nothing there at all.’ He shuddered with fear. ‘I must be brave,’ he told himself. ‘If I want to be king, I must be brave.’

### Exercise 4 – DISCUSSION

Look at this sentence: *‘If the king is killed with the soldiers’ knives, everyone will think they’re guilty.’*

In pairs or small groups, comment on this sentence.

- Will people really believe that the soldiers killed their own king?
- Is Lady Macbeth’s plan a good one?

### Exercise 5 – PREDICTION

What do you think will happen next? Will Macbeth go through with his wife’s plan or not?

