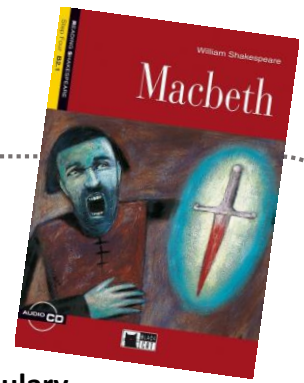


LESSON PLAN

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE • MACBETH

- Aim**
- to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
 - to predict the continuation of a story or a play
 - to identify a literary genre
 - to encourage the pleasure of reading

Level B2.1

Time 50-60 minutes

Materials: 1 front cover illustration of the graded reader *Macbeth*
2 a worksheet

Introduction

This lesson plan introduces *Macbeth*, one of William Shakespeare's most famous tragedies. The short extracts will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary, delve into the complex character of Macbeth and predict what will happen next. All of this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading an all-time classic.

Background notes on the story

The play is set in 11th-century Scotland during the reign of King Duncan, a good king admired by his lords (thanes). One of Duncan's loyal thanes is Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis, who fights bravely in the battle against the Thane of Cawdor, and defeats him. King Duncan is very pleased with Macbeth for his victory and decides to make him Thane of Cawdor, a real honor. But Macbeth doesn't know yet this decision.

While Macbeth and his friend Banquo are going back home after the battle, they meet three witches. They greet Macbeth as Thane of Cawdor and as King of Scotland! Macbeth is very surprised of this prophecy. Banquo is curious and asks the witches about his future. One of the witches says, 'You will never be king, but your children's children will be kings.' The witches disappear and the two men don't know what to think.

Suddenly a messenger from King Duncan appears and says, 'Macbeth, you are now the Thane of Cawdor!' Macbeth is amazed and says, 'The witches told the truth!' But Banquo warns him that he is not the King of Scotland and that witches are evil spirits that make men do bad things. Macbeth begins to think. 'Perhaps I'll be king one day!' He is ambitious and likes the idea of becoming king, but Duncan is his friend and he doesn't want to hurt him.

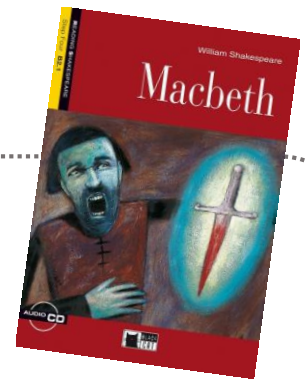
DISCUSSION - At this point, there are some questions that need to be answered.

1. What will Macbeth do now that he heard the prophecy of the three witches?
 - a. Will he forget the prophecy?
 - b. Will he take Banquo's advice and realise that the witches are evil spirits?
 - c. Will he start thinking about *how* he could become king?



LESSON PLAN

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PROCEDURE

Before the lesson

- make a copy of the worksheet (one per student)
- download a photo of a Scottish castle
- read the background notes on the play to the class

First Step (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impressions and ask them these questions.

- What genre do you think it is?
- Have you read any other of Shakespeare's plays?

Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.

- What is the man on the cover looking at?
- How does this man feel? Why?

Second Step (30 minutes)

Give students the worksheet and explain that the text comes from Chapter 2 of the reader.

- Ask them to do EXERCISE 1, *Before you read*.
 - Ask them to work in pairs to check their answers.
- [KEY: 1 b; 2 c; 3 d; 4 a]

Read EXERCISE 2, *Extract Part 1*. You could read it out loud to make the dialogue more dramatic.

Then ask the students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding the second time.

- Ask students to comment with their opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.

- Ask students to read EXERCISE 3, *Extract Part 2*.

Last Step (5 minutes)

exercise

Ask students to predict what could happen (EXERCISE 5). This can be done in pairs or in small groups. If there is no time in class, this could be written homework.

