

Macbeth - Episode 7 "Macbeth Visits the Witches"

On the heath there is thunder. The three witches meet up with Hecate, queen of the witches and the goddess of witchcraft. She tells them off for daring to meddle with the affairs of Macbeth without consulting her. She describes him as "a wayward son, spiteful and wrathful" who does everything for his own ends. She orders them to put things right.

In a cavern, with more thunder outside, the witches sing about "Black Spirits" and dance around a steaming cauldron.

**"Double, double, toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."**

They chant spells and throw ingredients into their cauldron... poisoned entrails, toad, snake, eye of newt, toe of frog, wool of bat, tongue of dog, adder's fork, blind worm's sting, lizard's leg, howlet's wing, scale of dragon, tooth of wolf, root of hemlock, gall of goat, slivers of yew, nose of Turk, Tartar's lips, finger of baby strangled at birth, Tasty!

It should be cooled with a baboon's blood and then it is ready.

"By the pricking of my thumbs something wicked this way comes," cries a witch ...it is Macbeth.

He demands to know what his future will bring. With a clap of thunder an apparition appears. The head in armour floats up from the cauldron.

"Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff! Beware the Thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough"

As he already knows that Macduff is a threat, he is ready to believe what else the witches have to say.

A second apparition appears: it is a young baby covered in blood.

"None of woman born shall harm Macbeth," it says.

This makes Macbeth believe that he should fear no-one – especially Macduff.

A third apparition appears, a child crowned, holding a tree in front of him

**"Macbeth shall never vanquished be until
Great Birnam Wood moves against him to High Dunsinane Hill
Shall come against him."**

Macbeth knows that this third prophecy will never happen. No-one can make the trees leave the ground and march as an army. He is safe.

Just to be sure he asks whether Banquo's children will ever reign over this kingdom.

At this, a parade eight kings appears, the last with a mirror in his hand. Macbeth recognises him as being like the spirit of Banquo.

The witches dance then vanish.

Macbeth runs looking for them but finds Lennox instead. Lennox says he hasn't seen any witches go past, but instead tells Macbeth the news that Macduff has fled to England. Macbeth decides that Macduff is a traitor and in revenge he will surprise Macduff's castle and have his wife and children murdered.

Now answer these questions

1. Who is Hecate?

Queen of the witches and goddess of witchcraft.

2. Why is she cross with the witches?

She is angry that the witches did not consult her before meddling in Macbeth's affairs.

3. Who has gone to England?

Macduff has gone to England.

4. What has made Macbeth angry?

He is angry that Fleance is still alive and that Macduff is a traitor (who left for England)

5. Name five ingredients the witches throw in their cauldron.

Toad, snake, eye of newt, tongue of dog, baby's finger.

6. What must the potion in the cauldron be cooled with before it is ready?

Baboon's blood.

7. How is the weather on the heath?

It is stormy with thunder.

8. "Something wicked this way comes" – What is it?

Macbeth is coming.

9. What is an apparition?

An apparition is a supernatural vision (image)

10. Who must Macbeth beware of?

Beware Macduff. Beware Thane of Fife.

11. What cannot harm Macbeth?

"None of woman born shall harm macbeth."

12. What is the name of the wood near to Macbeth's castle?

Birnam Wood.

13. Macbeth's castle is called Dunsinane – what needs to happen for him to get beaten?

Macbeth shall never vanquished be until Great Birnam Wood moves against him to

High Dunsinane Hill.

14. How is Macbeth feeling about these predictions?

He thinks these predictions are impossibilities.

15. What does Macbeth demand from the witches?

He demands to know if Banquo's children will ever rule his kingdom.

16. How many Kings appear in the apparition?

Eight.

17. Who does the last King look like?

He looks like the spirit of Banquo,

18. Who doesn't see the witches or the apparitions?

Lennox does not see them.

19. What news does Lennox bring?

Macduff has fled to England.

20. What is Macbeth's revenge for this betrayal?

Attack Macduff's castle and have his wife and children killed.