

Macbeth



Shakespeare's Inspiration

Shakespeare got his idea for *Macbeth* from Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles*, the most popular book of British history of Shakespeare's days.



Witchcraft in Shakespeare's Day

- Many people believed in the power of witches in Shakespeare's day, especially King James I.
- King James became the King of England in 1603. Shakespeare knew very well of King James's superstition. Therefore, he wrote *Macbeth*, a play full of elements of evil!



Setting

- Scotland, 1050

The Tragedy of Macbeth

- The action of the play takes place in northern Scotland and England.
- As *The Tragedy of Macbeth* opens, the Scottish army is battling invading forces, and King Duncan wants a victory.
- Macbeth was his army general.





Banquo, friend of Macbeth

Macbeth



Lady Macbeth



Duncan, King of Scotland



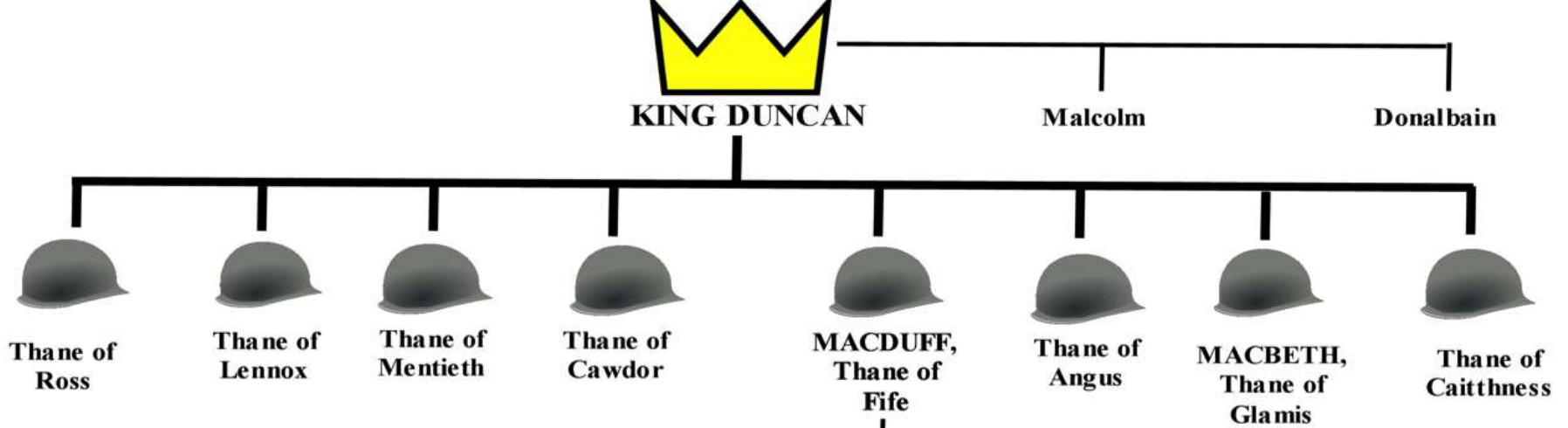
Macduff, Thane of Fife



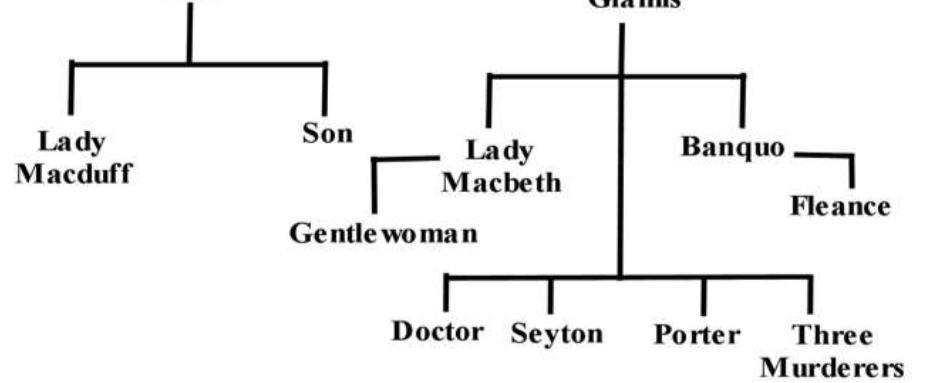
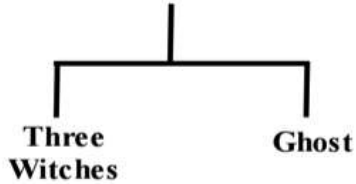
Three witches



Malcolm, Duncan's son and heir to his throne.



Instruments of Darkness:



CHARACTER MAP OF MACBETH



Strengths:

Powerful over
Macbeth

Weaknesses:

Too sing-songy to
take seriously



MACBETH
Thane of Glamis.

LADY MACBETH
Macbeth's wife.
Convinces him to kill King Duncan.

BANQUO
Warrior and friend of Macbeth. Father of Fleance. Macbeth orders his murder.

MACDUFF
Thane of Fife. Macbeth is told to beware of him, so he orders that his family be put to death.

THREE WITCHES
The weird sisters.
Reveal prophecies to Macbeth and Banquo.

KING DUNCAN
King of Scotland.
Murdered by Macbeth.

FLEANCE
Son of Banquo.
Flees before Macbeth can have him killed.

MALCOLM
Son of Duncan. Joins forces with Macduff to kill Macbeth. Becomes King of Scotland.