

By the end of studying **Act 3 Scene 5** I need to know;

Plot: Hecate admonishes the witches for not including her in their plans; she decides that the witches will make Macbeth think he is immortal.

Ideas: Despite Macbeth believing he has power; this scene reminds us of the superior power of the witches- everything he has done is a result of their manipulations.

There's a common belief that this scene was not written by Shakespeare himself but was inserted by another playwright (generally believed to be Thomas Middleton)

Vocabulary	<p>Bedlams Traffic Wayward Spiteful Amends Vessels Sleights Sprites</p>
Context	<p>Hecate- Greek Goddess of witchcraft and magic.</p> <p>The weather- In Jacobean England there was a common belief that witches could control the weather; this is reflected again in this scene through the stage direction 'thunder and lightning' at the start of the scene. The weather they control is also important here- it is destructive and dangerous weather.</p> <p>The pit of Acheron'- in Greek mythology, Acheron is one of the rivers that runs through Hell.</p>
Themes	<p>The supernatural- The power of the witches and the supernatural is evident again in this scene. Even though they were not present in Act 3 Scene 4, they are aware of Macbeth's intentions to meet with them again, showing their gift of foresight.</p> <p>Power- Hecate is shown to have power over the witches- even though they seem like powerful creatures. Also, the witches clearly still have power and control over Macbeth,</p> <p>Manipulation- Hecate reveals her plans to manipulate Macbeth into believing he is immortal in order to exacerbate the tyrant within him.</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>The audience is toyed with here, The scene opens with a clearly angry Hecate, who admonishes the witches as 'bedlams... saucy and overbold' who are 'traffic[ing] and trad[ing] with Macbeth', initially making it seem as if Hecate is annoyed at their misdeeds. However, she goes on to lament how she 'was never called to bear [her] part'- she's merely frustrated at not being involved in its initial conception. Her frustration also stems from the fact that he is a 'wayward son' who 'loves for his own ends' rather than the witches. This reinforces how everything Macbeth has done has been for himself and his own ambitions. The idea of him being 'wayward' somewhat suggests that he has lost his way- potentially in a biblical or religious sense- he has abandoned his Christian teachings, however not to collude or join forces with the witches. He hasn't openly turned to evil, but instead has become evil to secure the crown.</p> <p>The witches speak in rhyming couplets here- which reinforces the sense that they are other worldly. Bizarrely, they speak in iambic pentameter [which is one of the reasons it is suspected that this scene was not written by Shakespeare, as they speak in trochaic trimeter for the rest of the play].</p> <p>This scene highlights how Macbeth, despite his own beliefs, is not in control- but rather</p>

Reading:

Read up to the punctuation.

Hecate- Greek goddess of witchcraft and magic

Weird Sisters-

Links across the text:

Act 1 Scene 1, Act 1 Scene 3, Act 4 Scene 1- Shakespeare signifies that the audience is about to meet the witches through the stage directions- there is always 'thunder and lightning'. This supports Jacobean belief that witches could control the weather.

Quotes	<p>'for security, is mortals' chiefest enemy'- Macbeth will become a tyrant as a result of his belief that he can't be defeated- this creates the idea that man is his own worst enemy, that this evil is inherent but dormant.</p> <p>'loves for his own ends, not you'- Macbeth hasn't committed any of his sins out of love or respect for the witches, not for Lucifer, everything he has done has been for himself and his own gains/ merits. Hecate is undermining what the witches have 'achieved' here, they haven't transformed Macbeth, they just stoked his ambition which was already there.</p> <p>'wayward son'- Suggests Macbeth is lost, potentially in a biblical or religious sense- rather than having explicitly rejected God,</p>
Terminology	<p>Rhyming couplets</p>