

A black and white photograph of three witches from the play Macbeth. They are standing on a rocky, uneven ground. Each witch is wearing a dark, heavy, hooded cloak. The witch on the left is looking upwards and to the right. The witch in the center is looking directly forward. The witch on the right is looking upwards and to the left. The background is dark and moody, with several bare, gnarled trees and a cloudy sky. The overall atmosphere is dark and ominous.

# Macbeth Vocabulary

Act I

# IMPORTANT!!!

To break the curse...

“Hot potato, off his drawers, Puck will make amends!”

# Hail

Verb

**Definition:** to praise enthusiastically

**Synonyms:** acclaim, praise, glorify

*All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!*

*(act 1, scene 3)*

# Prophetic

## Adjective

**Definition:** accurately describing or predicting what will happen in the future

**Synonyms:** prescient, predictive, far-seeing, prognostic

*Say from whence  
You owe this strange  
intelligence? Or why  
Upon this blasted heath you  
stop our way with such  
prophetic greeting?*

*(act 1, scene 3)*

# Earnest

**Noun**

**Definition:** Something of value given to bind a contract

**Synonyms:** collateral, promise

*And, for an earnest of a greater honour*

*He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor*

*(act 1, scene 3)*

# Vantage

**Noun**

**Definition:** Place or situation  
affording some benefit

**Synonyms:** jump, stead,  
advantage

*Whether he was combined  
With those of Norway, or did  
line the rebel*

*With hidden help and  
vantage, or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's  
wreck, I know not*

*(act 1, scene 3)*

# Treason

**Noun**

**Definition:** disloyalty by  
virtue of subversive behavior

**Synonyms:** treachery,  
disloyalty, betrayal

*But treasons capital  
Confess'd and proved  
Have overthrown him  
(act 1, scene 3)*

# Harbinger

**Noun**

**Definition:** something indicating the approach of someone or something

**Synonyms:** herald, sign, indication, signal

*I'll be myself the harbinger  
and make joyful  
The hearing of my wife with  
your approach*  
(act 1, scene 4)



# Peerless

## Adjective

**Definition:** eminent beyond or above comparison, unequaled, unrivaled

**Synonyms:** incomparable, matchless, unparalleled

*Let's after him  
Whose care is gone before  
to bid us welcome:  
It is a peerless kinsman  
(act 1, scene 4)*

# Dire

**Adjective**

**Definition:** Causing fear or dread or terror

**Synonyms:** terrible, dreadful, appalling

*Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal  
thoughts, unsex me here  
And fill me from the crown to  
the toe-top full  
Of direst cruelty!*

*(act 1, scene 5)*

# Gall

**Noun**

**Definition:** a digestive fluid made by the liver, but here it means a poisonous acid

**Synonyms:** acid, poison, bile

*And take my milk for gall,  
you murdering ministers,  
wherever in your sightless  
substances*

*You wait on nature's  
mischief!*

*(act 1, scene 5)*

# Frieze

**Noun**

**Definition:** an ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band

**Synonyms:** embellishment, decoration

*No jutty, frieze,  
Buttress, nor coign of  
vantage, but this bird  
Hath made his pendent bed  
and procreant cradle*

*(act 1, scene 6)*

