



BIG DRAMAS second edition

Macbeth Inc.

DRAMA TEACHER NOTES

Group discussion

- Discuss the function of the three witches in *Macbeth Inc.* If you have read Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, contrast the witches in both plays.
- Discuss the ending of this play, from the beginning of act V, scene iv. How would you stage it? What do you think about Macbeth's last speech?
- Discuss the relationship between Macbeth and his wife as it is portrayed in this play. How does the relationship change during the play?

Improvisation

- In small groups, improvise a scene in which the lines are all in rhyming couplets. One player can say one line and another can finish the couplet. Try to keep the scene flowing and don't worry if some of the rhymes and rhythms are a little 'loose'. Use one of the themes or issues from *Macbeth Inc.* as the title of your improvisation.
- Improvise a scene at a dinner table where mobile telephones cause maximum chaos. Perhaps someone is about to propose and his telephone rings at the crucial time, or a group is at the dinner table trying to settle a family argument and they, each in turn, are interrupted by their telephones ringing.

Scripting

Try writing a short scene on one of the following themes in which all the characters speak in iambic pentameter. Keep the words modern, but the rhythm of the language Shakespearean:

- fear
- power
- loyalty
- revenge.

Taking it further

- Prepare a speech in which you either agree or disagree with the following statement: 'That Shakespeare still speaks to us all'.
- Design the costumes for a production of *Macbeth Inc.* What colours would you work with? What styles? Prepare sketches or find examples in magazines of the types of costumes you would use.
- If you are familiar with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, choose two soliloquies from it and make notes on what each speech reveals about the character's state of mind at the time. Then find the equivalent moment in *Macbeth Inc.* and see what similarities and differences exist between the two.

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