

## “Macbeth” List of Characters

**DUNCAN:** The good-natured, honest and trustworthy King of Scotland; he is also politically naive, in part because he trusts Macbeth, who ends up murdering him. Macbeth is his cousin and one of his most trusted generals.

**MACBETH:** One of Duncan's most courageous generals. His driving ambition to become King of Scotland, and the encouragement of his wife corrupt him and cause him to murder Duncan.

**LADY MACBETH:** As ambitious as her husband, she taunts Macbeth's courage to insure that he will murder Duncan and become king. Her power of language is famous.

**BANQUO:** A general in Duncan's army, he is Macbeth's closest friend. When Macbeth fears Banquo suspects him of murdering Duncan, he arranges to have Banquo murdered.

**MACDUFF:** A Scottish general who strongly suspects Macbeth of murdering Duncan. Macduff swears vengeance.

**MALCOM:** Duncan's elder son, named as their heir to the throne of Scotland; he flees to England after his father's assassination.

**DONALBAIN:** Duncan's younger son; he flees to Ireland after his father is murdered.

**LENNOX:** One of Duncan's nobles, he functions largely as an observer in the play. He accompanies Macbeth to the dead king's chamber and, suspicious of what he sees, he grows increasingly sarcastic and fearful for the fate of Scotland.

**ROSS:** A cousin of Macduff, he acts as a messenger in the play, bringing good news of Macbeth's victory and bad news about Macduff's family.

**OLD SIWARD:** Earl of Northumberland; an English ally of Malcolm and Macduff.

**YOUNG SIWARD:** Siward's son; slain by Macbeth in hand-to-hand combat

**SEYTON:** Macbeth's lieutenant / assistant late in the play

**HECATE:** Sometimes referred to as the queen of the witches, she presides over all nocturnal horrors; it is who she directs the supernatural happenings and appearances of the mystical apparitions.

**THE THREE WITCHES:** Supernatural agents of fate who prophecy that Macbeth will become the king of Scotland; they also predict his fall.

**PORTER:** The keeper of Macbeth's castle who drunkenly imagines that he's gatekeeper to Hell.