

Context Knowledge  
 Overview  
 Year Group: 5

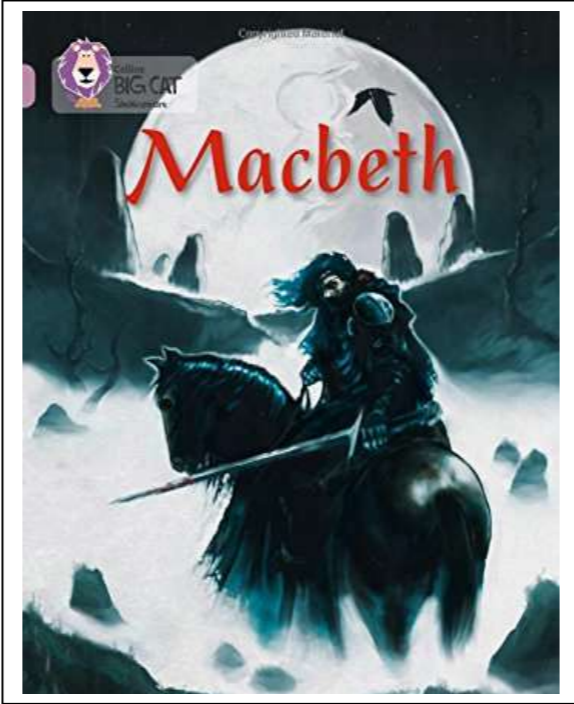
Term: Summer 1  
 Text: Macbeth  
 Author: William Shakespeare

Geographical Focus	
Geography of Independent Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scotland's close proximity to Norway (and Scandinavia) made it a target for viking invasion.</li> <li>The North Sea separates Scotland and Norway.</li> <li>Viking's were adepts sailors so Scotland was in easy reach.</li> </ul>

Historical Focus	
History of Independent Scotland	
The Three Main Ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three main ages spanning independent Scotland are: The Viking Age; The Dark Age; The Renaissance</li> </ul>
The Historic Macbeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1034, Duncan became King of Scotland. He proved to be incompetent and, in 1040, Macbeth killed King Duncan.</li> <li>Macbeth was a wise king that successfully ruled for 17 years from a fortified castle at Dunsinane.</li> </ul>
The Feudal System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The feudal system was a way of structuring society around relationships between landowners and subservient labourers.</li> </ul>
The Elizabethan and Jacobean Eras	
Elizabeth I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Elizabethan Age is often termed 'The Golden Age', a period in English history characterised by international expansion, naval triumph over the Spanish and tolerance towards the Protestant Reformation.</li> </ul>
James VI of Scotland and James I of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James VI of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth I of England to become James I of England and Scotland.</li> <li>The Gunpowder Plot was a failed assassination attempt against King James I by a group of provincial English Catholics including Robert Catesby and Guy Fawkes.</li> </ul>

Other Focus	
RE	
King James Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An English translation of the Christian Bible for the Church of England begun in 1604 and completed in 1611.</li> </ul>
The History of Witchcraft	
Daemonologie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daemonologie was published in 1597 by James I as a historical dissertation on contemporary necromancy. It was a political and theological statement to educate a misinformed population on the history, practices and implications of sorcery and the reasons for persecuting a witch in a Christian society.</li> <li>Shakespeare borrows heavily from Daemonologie, depicting the weird sisters as ugly, androgynous hags that are assigned the sinister role of leading Macbeth to his demise.</li> </ul>
Witches as the 'Three Fates'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Moirai or Fates were three sister deities, incarnations of destiny, fate and life. They were often described as being ugly and old women, stern and severe.</li> <li>Like the 'Three fates', the witches are so deeply entrenched in both worlds that it is unclear whether they control fate or whether they are merely its agents.</li> </ul>

Authorial Focus	
Author	William Shakespeare
Date of birth	1564
Place of Birth	Stratford-Upon-Avon
Early life	William was the third child of John Shakespeare, a leather merchant, and Mary Arden, a local landed heiress. William had two older sisters, Joan and Judith, and three younger brothers, Gilbert, Richard and Edmund. Before William's birth, his father became a successful merchant and held official positions as alderman and bailiff, an office resembling a mayor. However, records indicate John's fortunes declined sometime in the late 1570s.
Education	Attended King Edward VI Grammar School Left formal education at aged 14
Published	Macbeth was published 1623
Later Life	Died 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 1616
Other notable works	Hamlet 1603 Othello 1622



Authorial Focus – Timeline	
1564	Shakespeare born in Stratford-Upon Avon
1571	Starts grammar school
1582	Marries Anne Hathaway
1583	Shakespeare's first child, Susanna, is born
1585	Shakespeare's twins are born Shakespeare leaves for London to work in theatres
1593	Begins writing The Sonnets
1594	Founded the Lord Chamberlain's Men and acting company
1595	Writes Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream
1598	The Globe Theatre is built
1616	Shakespeare dies

