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## Macbeth – *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb

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### About the Authors: Charles and Mary Lamb

- **Charles Lamb** (1775–1834) and **Mary Lamb** (1764–1847) were English writers and siblings.
- Known for making Shakespeare's plays simple for children and young readers.
- Their language was clear, moralistic, and aimed to teach values.

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### Writing and Publishing Time

- **Written:** Between 1806–1807
- **Published:** In 1807
- The book is titled: "**Tales from Shakespeare**"

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### Reason for Writing

- To make **Shakespeare's plays understandable** to **children** and **young readers**.
- To **preserve the original plots and characters** while simplifying the language.
- To **instill moral values** and understanding of good vs evil.

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### Insisted by

- The publisher **William Godwin** (Mary Shelley's father) encouraged Charles and Mary Lamb to write these tales for educational purposes.
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## Define Tragedy and Comedy

Tragedy	Comedy
A story that ends in <b>sadness or disaster</b> , usually because of a character's flaw.	A story with <b>happy or humorous events</b> , usually ending in <b>marriage or joy</b> .
Shows downfall of the hero due to <b>ambition, pride, or fate</b> .	Shows <b>confusion and resolution</b> , often with funny misunderstandings.
Example: <i>Macbeth</i>	Example: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>

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## Characters in Macbeth

Character	Description
<b>Macbeth</b>	Brave Scottish general; becomes king by murder; tragic hero.
<b>Lady Macbeth</b>	Macbeth's ambitious wife; pushes him to commit murder.
<b>King Duncan</b>	Kind and good king of Scotland; murdered by Macbeth.
<b>Banquo</b>	Macbeth's friend; killed by Macbeth out of fear.
<b>Macduff</b>	Nobleman; kills Macbeth to restore order.
<b>Witches</b>	Predict Macbeth's future; represent fate and evil.
<b>Malcolm</b>	Duncan's son; rightful heir to the throne.

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## Summary (Short & Simple)

Macbeth, a brave soldier, hears a prophecy from three witches that he will become king. His wife urges him to kill King Duncan. Macbeth does so and becomes king but is filled with guilt and fear. To secure his throne, he kills Banquo and others. Eventually, Macbeth is killed by Macduff in battle. Malcolm becomes king, restoring peace.

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## Story at a Glance (Detailed for MCQs)

1. **Witches' Prophecy:**  
Macbeth and Banquo meet witches → Macbeth to be king, Banquo's sons to rule.
2. **Ambition Ignites:**  
Lady Macbeth persuades Macbeth to murder Duncan.
3. **Duncan Murdered:**  
Macbeth kills Duncan in his sleep → becomes king.
4. **Guilt and Fear:**  
Macbeth becomes paranoid → kills Banquo.
5. **Ghost of Banquo:**  
Appears at banquet → Macbeth's guilt increases.
6. **More Prophecies:**  
Witches show 3 apparitions → false hope given to Macbeth.
7. **Macduff's Family Killed:**  
Macbeth orders their murder → Macduff joins Malcolm in revenge.
8. **Final Battle:**  
Macbeth thinks he's safe ("none of woman born..."), but Macduff was born by C-section.
9. **Macbeth is Killed:**  
Macduff beheads Macbeth.
10. **Malcolm Becomes King:**  
Order is restored; evil is punished.

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## Flow Chart of Actions in Macbeth

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Three witches give prophecy  
↓  
Macbeth becomes ambitious  
↓  
Lady Macbeth persuades him to kill Duncan  
↓  
Macbeth murders King Duncan  
↓  
Macbeth becomes King  
↓  
Macbeth fears Banquo → has him killed  
↓  
Banquo's ghost haunts Macbeth  
↓  
Witches give more false hope (3 apparitions)  
↓  
Macbeth kills Macduff's family  
↓  
Macduff and Malcolm plan war  
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Final battle → Macduff kills Macbeth

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Malcolm is crowned King

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End: Peace restored in Scotland

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## Line-by-Line Simplified Version of Macbeth (from Lambs' Tales)

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### **Original:**

When Duncan the Meek reigned king of Scotland, there lived a great thane, or nobleman, called Macbeth.

### **Simplified:**

When Duncan, a kind and gentle king, ruled Scotland, there was a powerful nobleman named Macbeth.

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### **Original:**

This Macbeth was a brave and valiant soldier, and a man of great ambition.

### **Simplified:**

Macbeth was a courageous soldier and had a strong desire to become powerful.

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### **Original:**

Returning victorious from a great battle, he and his friend Banquo were met by three witches.

### **Simplified:**

After winning a war, Macbeth and his friend Banquo met three witches.

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### **Original:**

They saluted Macbeth with the title of Thane of Glamis, which he was; then as Thane of Cawdor, which he was soon to be; and lastly they said he should be king.

### **Simplified:**

The witches called him Thane of Glamis (his real title), then Thane of Cawdor (which he would soon become), and finally said he would be king.

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**Original:**

To Banquo they prophesied that he would never be king, but his children after him would reign.

**Simplified:**

They told Banquo that he would not be king, but his children would become kings in the future.

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**Original:**

Soon after, Macbeth was made Thane of Cawdor, just as the witches had said.

**Simplified:**

Soon, Macbeth was given the title Thane of Cawdor, just like the witches predicted.

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**Original:**

Thinking the rest of the prophecy must also be true, he began to wish to be king.

**Simplified:**

He believed the rest of the prophecy would also come true and started wanting to become king.

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**Original:**

He wrote to his wife, Lady Macbeth, and told her all that had happened.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth sent a letter to his wife and told her everything the witches had said.

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**Original:**

She was very ambitious, and as soon as she heard of the prophecy, she wanted Macbeth to become king at once.

**Simplified:**

Lady Macbeth also had great ambition and wanted her husband to become king immediately.

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**Original:**

When King Duncan came to their castle, Lady Macbeth persuaded Macbeth to kill him.

**Simplified:**

When King Duncan visited their castle, Lady Macbeth convinced Macbeth to murder him.

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**Original:**

Macbeth killed the king while he was asleep.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth murdered King Duncan during the night while he was sleeping.

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**Original:**

After the murder, Macbeth became king, but he was full of fear and guilt.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth became king, but he felt very scared and guilty.

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**Original:**

He feared Banquo, whose children were to be kings.

**Simplified:**

He was afraid of Banquo because the witches had said Banquo's children would rule.

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**Original:**

So Macbeth had Banquo killed, but Banquo's son escaped.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth arranged Banquo's murder, but Banquo's son managed to run away.

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**Original:**

At a feast, the ghost of Banquo appeared to Macbeth, and he was filled with terror.

**Simplified:**

During a royal dinner, Macbeth saw Banquo's ghost and got terrified.

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**Original:**

He went to the witches again, and they told him to beware Macduff.

**Simplified:**

He visited the witches once more, and they warned him to be careful of Macduff.

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**Original:**

They also told him that no one born of a woman would harm him, and that he would not be defeated until Birnam Wood came to Dunsinane.

**Simplified:**

They said no man born from a woman could kill him and he would be safe until a forest called Birnam Wood moved to his castle at Dunsinane.

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**Original:**

Macbeth felt safe because all men are born of women, and forests cannot move.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth thought he was safe because everyone is born from a woman and trees don't walk.

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**Original:**

Still, to be sure, he had Macduff's wife and children killed.

**Simplified:**

Just to be extra careful, he killed Macduff's family.

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**Original:**

Macduff joined Malcolm, the son of Duncan, in England and came back with an army.

**Simplified:**

Macduff joined Duncan's son Malcolm in England and returned to Scotland with soldiers.

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**Original:**

To hide their numbers, they cut branches from Birnam Wood and carried them.

**Simplified:**

To hide their army, the soldiers held tree branches from Birnam Wood in front of them.

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**Original:**

So it looked like Birnam Wood was moving toward Dunsinane.

**Simplified:**

From a distance, it looked like the forest was walking toward Macbeth's castle.

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**Original:**

In battle, Macduff met Macbeth and told him he was not born of a woman but was taken from his mother's womb early.

**Simplified:**

During the fight, Macduff told Macbeth he was born by surgery (C-section), not in the natural way.

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**Original:**

Macbeth knew the witches had tricked him and was killed by Macduff.

**Simplified:**

Macbeth realized the witches had misled him, and Macduff killed him.

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**Original:**

Malcolm became king and peace was restored in Scotland.

**Simplified:**

Malcolm became king, and everything became peaceful in Scotland again.

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