

# William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

## Essential Questions

- How did Elizabethan theater and the language of Shakespeare's plays involve the audience?
- How did Elizabethan theater differ from contemporary theater?
- How does *Macbeth* reflect Elizabethan history and traditional thought?
- Is prophecy something that *must* be or something that *might* be?
- How much power do the witches wield in this play?
- How does approaching *Macbeth* from a director's viewpoint affect the reading?

## Literary Terms

- from Elizabethan theater/stage history
  - thrust stage and all parts & aspects of Globe Theater
  - soliloquy
  - aside
  - prologue/epilogue
  - challenging illusion
- Prosody/scansion terms
  - scansion
  - foot (iamb, trochee, anapest, dactyl, spondee)
  - meter (trimeter, tetrameter, pentameter, etc.)
  - iambic pentameter
  - blank verse
  - heroic couplet
- Allusion (and specific biblical and classical allusions throughout the play)
- Motif
- Tragedy
  - *tragoedia*
  - *hamartia*
  - *hubris*
  - *anagnorisis*
  - *peripeteia*
  - *catharsis*
  - Tragic Hero
- Irony
  - verbal
  - situational
  - dramatic
- Sound and Sense literary devices
  - alliteration
  - assonance
  - euphony
  - cacophony
  - onomatopoeia