How is the supernatural presented in 'Macbeth'?
Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

**Task:** Write down the following information about the supernatural in 'Macbeth'.

- The supernatural is the idea that there are mysterious forces controlling what is happening in characters' lives.
- In 'Macbeth', the supernatural is an integral part of the structure of the plot. It provides a catalyst for action.
- The theme of the supernatural appears in the play in various guises – as the witches, as visions and in Lady Macbeth’s soliloquies.
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- Witchcraft has four functions in the play: it exposes the evil hiding within Macbeth; it directs his evil to particular deeds; it highlights the forces of evil at work in the world; and it creates a powerful atmosphere in the play.

- The witches only appear in four scenes (I.1, I.3, III.5, IV.1). However, they are the first characters we meet and their evil sets the scene for everything to come: thunder and lightning suggest the havoc that Scotland is about to experience. The witches know they will tell Macbeth something that will prey on his mind. The witches’ knowledge is like a drug to Macbeth. He is hooked on them from the start – ‘would they had stayed’ (I.3.83) – and continually wants more. This leads him to seek them out later. Banquo warns against trusting supernatural knowledge, but Macbeth will not listen.

- Macbeth is particularly affected by the supernatural, with his visions of the dagger (II.1) and Banquo’s ghost (III.4).

- When Lady Macbeth calls on the dark forces (I.5) she is asking demonic spirits to possess her mind and body so that all her human pity can be removed.
28th November

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Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Task:
What did the Jacobean audience believe about witchcraft?
28th November

How is the supernatural presented in 'Macbeth'?
Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Supernatural forces in 'Macbeth'

- Lady Macbeth's visions
- The witches
- The apparitions
- Banquo's ghost
- Macbeth's vision of a dagger
- Nature is disturbed
- Lady Macbeth's soliloquies
How is the supernatural presented in 'Macbeth'? Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

- "Will these hands ne'er be clean?"
- "Out, damned spot!"
- "for none of woman born Shall harm Macbeth."
- "fat is foul and foul is fair"
- "thou shalt be king hereafter"
- "something wicked comes this way"
- "Come, you spirits"
- "pour my spirits in thine ear"
- "Bloody business"
- "A dagger of the mind"
- "Will these hands ne'er be clean?"
- "thou shalt be king hereafter"
- "something wicked comes this way"
- "Come, you spirits"
- "pour my spirits in thine ear"
- "Bloody business"
- "A dagger of the mind"
How is the supernatural presented in 'Macbeth'? Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Supernatural forces in 'Macbeth'

- "fair is foul and foul is fair"
- "thou shalt be king hereafter"
- "something wicked comes this way"
- "thunder and lightning"