

Macbeth Witches Lesson

Overview: Students will memorize the “Double double, toil and trouble” scene from Act 4, scene 1 of Macbeth. After memorizing, the students will presents their own staged versions of the scene, allowing them creativity for setting, characters and added dialogue.

Time needed: 2-3 class periods.

Steps:

1. Hand out copies of Act 4, scene 1 of Macbeth. Read through the witches lines. Explain the assignment to the students
2. Have students individually memorize the entire “Double Double” lines. With a block period, most students can get this down in one period.
3. (Optional) Have each student individually perform the lines.
4. Assign groups of 3-4 students. Tell them that they are to put on a performance of these lines. Explain that they need the following:
 - a. An established set
 - b. Established characters
 - c. Clear distribution of the workload (not necessarily an even distribution of lines).
5. Have groups perform.

Encourage creativity. Encourage additional dialogue, but stress that all of the original text must remain. The one and only time I’ve done this lesson, I had six groups perform and all six bits were distinctly different. The best one was a Food Network cooking show for witches...hilarious! If you have time, you could let the students go wild with costumes, etcetera. My students loved this lesson, and even requested doing another Shakesperian scene.