

Mood and Ritual - Macbeth's Witches

Part of the Shakespeare in the Classroom Series

at 'Let Him Roar Again'

Step by Step Instructions:

- Warm up using a game of 'Silver Bullet'. This is similar to 'Pass the Click/Clap'. It
 involves students standing in a circle and passing the energy from one person to
 another. Once this is established you would use the opening lines of Macbeth's Witches'
 text. The goal is to make the rhythm even and fast paced.
- 2. Students work in groups of three to create a ritual using the opening lines of the play.
 - Each group should take time to establish mood and tension before any words are spoken. Groups should attempt to create the supernatural quality on stage.
 - Each group must find a theatrical way to disappear at the end of the scene.
- 3. Students are to perform for one another and comment particularly on what is theatrically effective in each performance.



Macbeth Act I, Scene i

A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

When shall we three meet again In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done, When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

I come, Graymalkin!

Second Witch

Paddock calls.

Third Witch

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair: Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Exeunt