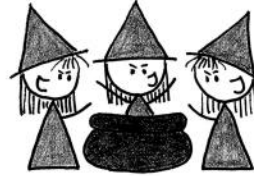


## Macbeth in Context

- 1599** King James VI of Scotland publishes a book called *Daemonologie* in which he discusses and condemns witchcraft.



- 1603** King James VI of Scotland inherits the English throne, taking the new title of James I of England. His family claims to be descended from Banquo.

The Lord Chamberlain's Men, the theatre company for which Shakespeare works, is appointed James' official troupe of players and receives the new title The King's Men. The company is given red cloth for new capes and is invited to join James' coronation procession.



- 1605** An assassination attempt, commonly known as the Gunpowder Plot, on King James was foiled. A group of Catholic conspirators led by Robert Catesby planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament while the King was there, using 36 barrels of gunpowder. The conspirators were either shot dead or tried and executed.

- 1606** Shakespeare writes the tragedy of Macbeth.



### Vocabulary

to **condemn** - to say in a strong way that someone or something is bad or wrong

**witchcraft** - magical things that are done by witches

to **descend from someone** - to have someone in the past as an origin or source, to be related to somebody

to **appoint someone something** - to choose someone to have a particular position or duty

**assassination** – an act of trying to kill someone, such as a famous or important person usually for political reasons

to **foil** - to prevent someone from doing something or achieving a goal