

THE THREE WITCHES

Three old witches are standing in a field. In the middle of the witches, there is a cauldron. The cauldron is on top of a fire. There is a hot, green liquid in the cauldron.



The witches are talking. They are laughing. They are throwing things – horrible things – into the cauldron. One witch is stirring the cauldron. The witches are making a spell! Soon, two men arrive. They are riding horses. They are returning from a battle. They get a shock when they see three old women out in the field! It is dark and the weather is bad. It is raining, windy and stormy. The men ride up to the witches. They ask the witches what they are doing. The witches tell the man at the front that one day, he

is going to be king! The man's name is Macbeth. But there already is a king! He is a good king, King Duncan. Everybody loves King Duncan. Macbeth sends a letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth. He tells her about the witches and that they say he will be king. She is happy! She tells her husband to come home immediately. She says he must kill the king. Then, he can be the new king! King Duncan comes to Macbeth's home that night. He is a guest at Macbeth's castle. Poor King Duncan!



Answer the questions in full sentences:

1. How many witches are there? _____
2. Where are they? _____
3. What is in the middle? _____
4. What is in the cauldron? _____
5. What are the witches doing? _____
6. How many men come? _____
7. Are the men on bikes? _____
8. What is the weather like? _____
10. What do the witches say to the first man? _____
11. What is the man's name? _____
12. What is the king's name? _____
13. What kind of king is he? _____
14. Do you think Macbeth's wife is a good person? _____
15. What does Macbeth's wife say he must do? _____
16. Who is coming to visit Macbeth that night? _____

This is based on the first scene of the play 'Macbeth' by Shakespeare.

Hiking in the Forest

Jake loved hiking, especially in woods and forests. He was strong and fit and sometimes hiked for ten hours at a time. One day in autumn, he decided to do a long hike. He drove for miles out of the city and into the wild. After a few hours, he parked his car in a valley and set off. He could see nothing but grass, bushes and trees and in the distance, picturesque mountains. It was a lovely crisp day that you sometimes get in late October: cold but clear, no clouds and plenty of sunshine. He kept walking and walking. There were huge trees, streams and waterfalls. He saw lots of interesting birds and some deer who kept their distance. At 6pm, the light was starting to fade a little, so he turned around. But after a few hours Jake was



horrified because he didn't

recognise the track. He was lost! By now, it was getting dark. He got his torch out but it didn't work. Disaster! He stumbled on and soon, luckily, he saw a wood cabin. It was a bit run-down, but a good size. Jake was very relieved. It looked empty but he knocked on the door just in case. No reply. He went in and saw that there was a bed. He reasoned that the cabin was deserted and so eventually, he got in the bed. He would easily be able to



find his way back to the car in the morning light, so he stopped worrying. He tried to get to sleep but he could not ignore the paintings on the walls. Portraits of strange looking people. Some were smiling, some looked sad. They all seemed to have their eyes focused on him and this sent a chill up Jake's spine. Eventually, as he was so exhausted, he dropped off to sleep. He had strange dreams that night. Ghostly figures were chasing him or trying to tell him things he just could not understand. When he woke up early the

next morning, at first he was confused, then spooked to see that there were no pictures on the walls. Only windows....

Read the text and then answer the following questions in full sentences:

1. What did Jake love? _____
2. Where did he prefer to go for his hiking? _____
3. How long were some of his hikes? _____
4. Where did he drive to? _____
5. Where did he park his car? _____
6. What could he see in the distance? _____
7. What kind of weather was it? _____
8. Why did he turn around to go back at 6pm? _____
9. Why was he horrified? _____
10. What is described as a disaster? _____
11. How did Jake feel when he saw a cabin? _____
12. What was the cabin like? _____
13. Why did he knock at the door? _____
14. Did he think anyone lived in the cabin? _____
15. What made it hard for him to get off to sleep? _____
16. Did he sleep well? _____
17. What was strange about the pictures? _____

What did you like/not like about this story? Do you like scary/spooky stories? Do you know any? List some well-known ones. Which is your favourite scary story?

