

Tehya's Reading of Act I, scene i



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Act 1, scene one. 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

Stage directions: 'A desert place' means nothing is around... Thunder and lightning make it seem scary. With the storm and the witches, this scene would definitely grab the audience's attention.

The two lines rhyme, and they form one sentence. This sounds like a chant. The First Witch says 'again', which means they will meet again in the future. She seems to like meeting in stormy weather. Creepy.

The Second Witch suggests they meet at the end of a battle. More end rhyme.

I'm not sure what 'ere' means, but I'm guessing it has to do with sunset. They seem to be saying the battle will end by the end of the day.

No idea what 'heath' meant, so I looked it up. It means open land with coarse grass. I think it matters more that they are meeting with Macbeth. Why would witches want to meet with him?

I have never heard of "Graymalkin" or "Paddock". Nothing comes up in Google when I try to look up the definitions. They are both capitalized though. Maybe they are names? I will come back to this later.

Okay - the notes on p. 11 in the textbook explain what these words mean. I guess it pays to read the book! 😊

I have heard this saying before, but I don't know where. How can fair be foul and foul be fair? It seems kind of like a warning: Things that look good are actually bad, and things that seem bad are actually good. I'm going to watch for this when they meet Macbeth.

I looked this up on p. 7 in my Macbeth textbook. "Exeunt" means everyone leaves the stage.