

**SPLATS : SHAKESPEARE IN A SUITCASE
MACBETH TEACHING RESOURCE**



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ABOUT MACBETH

The Tragedy of Macbeth was written during the reign of James 1st (James the VI th of Scotland) around 1606. For our production it is useful to know that Shakespeare's theatre company was sponsored by the King and writing a play saying what terrible things happen to King killers was a good move. King James was also terrified of witches, he wrote a book about them and genuinely believed that witches had tried to drown him when he was at sea. Banquo, whose son Fleance becomes King was believed to be a forefather of King James. So making his ancestors look good was also a smart move. Finally, Shakespeare took the source for this story from Holinshed's Chronicles. There was a real King Macbeth, who in 1040, did fight Vikings and defend his country from invasion but all the rest is Shakespeare invention no doubt inspired by his Patron King.

We have used rap music to help draw a comparison with the five beat rhythm of Shakespeare's language and the four beats of rap. It happens that the witches' lines are in a four beat anyway. If you can listen to the tunes in the classroom and go through it with the pupils that will be helpful. We advice that sometimes it is best just to say the words to the music and you will find that you naturally slip into the rhythm.

ACTORS LINES

We narrate the show to help with lines and with the longer parts where it is indicated (reading) you can give your pupils a copy to read. If you can make it look like a parchment even better. You may want to split the part of Macbeth between pupils. We don't mind if you mix the genders of the parts, after all Shakespeare had boys playing girls.

MAKING TASKS

These are the tasks for you when you are not working with the director. You can do the making before the day or you can share raven masks, and helmets. So group 1 makes helmets, group 2 make tankards, group 3 makes helmets and group 4 make tree hands. You will need between 7 to 14 of each depending on group size.

Group Tasks

GROUP 1

- 1) MAKE VIKING HELMETS
- 2) MAKE RAVEN MASKS
- 3) PRACTIE ROSS'S SPEECH
- 4) RUN THROUGH THE SCENES

GROUP 2

- 1) MAKE VIKING HELMETS
- 2) MAKE RAVEN MASKS
- 3) PRACTICE RAP
- 4) MAKE 5 TANKARDS
- 5) RUN THROUGH THE SCENES

CAST PARTS BEFORE REHEARSAL AND READ SCRIPT.

GROUP 3

- 1) MAKE VIKING HELMETS
- 2) MAKE RAVEN MASKS
- 3) PRACTICE RAP
- 4) PRACTISE ROSS'S SPEECH
- 5) RUN THROUGH THE SCENES
- 6) CAST PARTS BEFORE REHEARSAL AND READ SCRIPT
- 7) LISTEN TO MUSIC

GROUP 4

- 1) MAKE VIKING HELMETS
- 2) MAKE RAVEN MASKS
- 3) MAKE TREE HANDS
- 4) RUN THROUGH THE SCENES
- 5) CAST PARTS BEFORE REHEARSAL AND READ SCRIPT
- 6) LISTEN TO MUSIC

How to Make Tankards

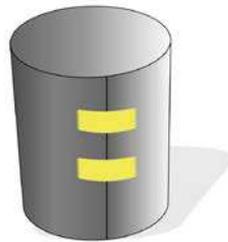
This is an optional task for Act 1 and if not appropriate for the pupils please ignore.

You will need:

- Grey card (or white)
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Pens/pencils

Instructions :

1. From a sheet of A4 card/paper cut it in half down the middle (lengthways.) Take one half and roll it into a big tube and tape down the join.

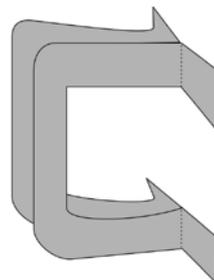


2. On the other half draw two square shapes like in the diagram (This is to make the handle of the tankard).

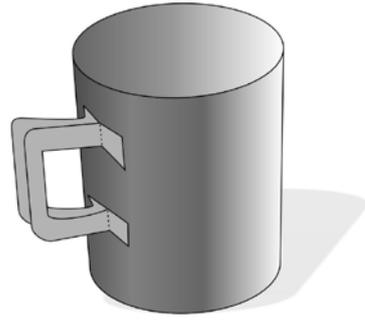


Note : these should be as similar as possible i.e. you might want to draw one, cut it out then draw around it to make the second one.

3. Once you've cut these, glue them together leaving 1 cm at the end unglued. Fold the unstuck ends outwards like so. (This is what you will use to stick the handle to the tube).



4. Then glue the folded back ends and press on to the side of the tube in a vertical line.



How to Make Tree Hands

These are for Acts 1, 2 & 3. The children who are going to be trees in the chase will use these. They are priority and you need to make at least ten pairs.

You will need:

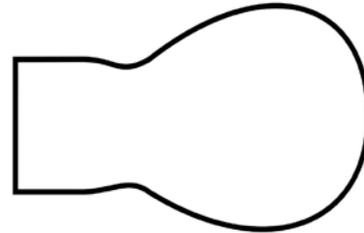
- Green Card or paint
- Scissors
- Glue



Instructions:

1. Cut out the card base this should be at least 10cm wider than the child's hand.

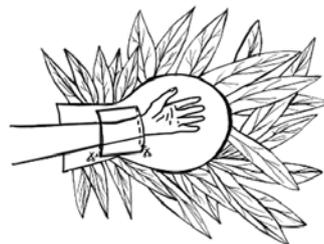
Note : these should be as similar as possible i.e. you might want to draw one, cut it out then draw around it to make the second one.



2. Cut out the leaves from green card or paper. You can draw on the leaf ridging with a black pen. Then glue them onto the base.



3. Cut out a wrist strap out of any spare card. This needs to be large enough for the children to get their hands through quickly but not so loose that it becomes too floppy to hold.



Raven Mask Instructions



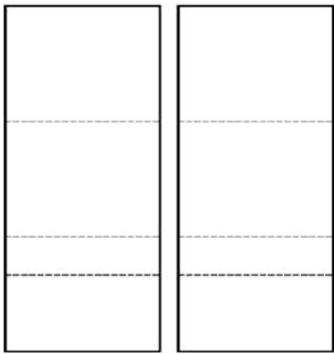
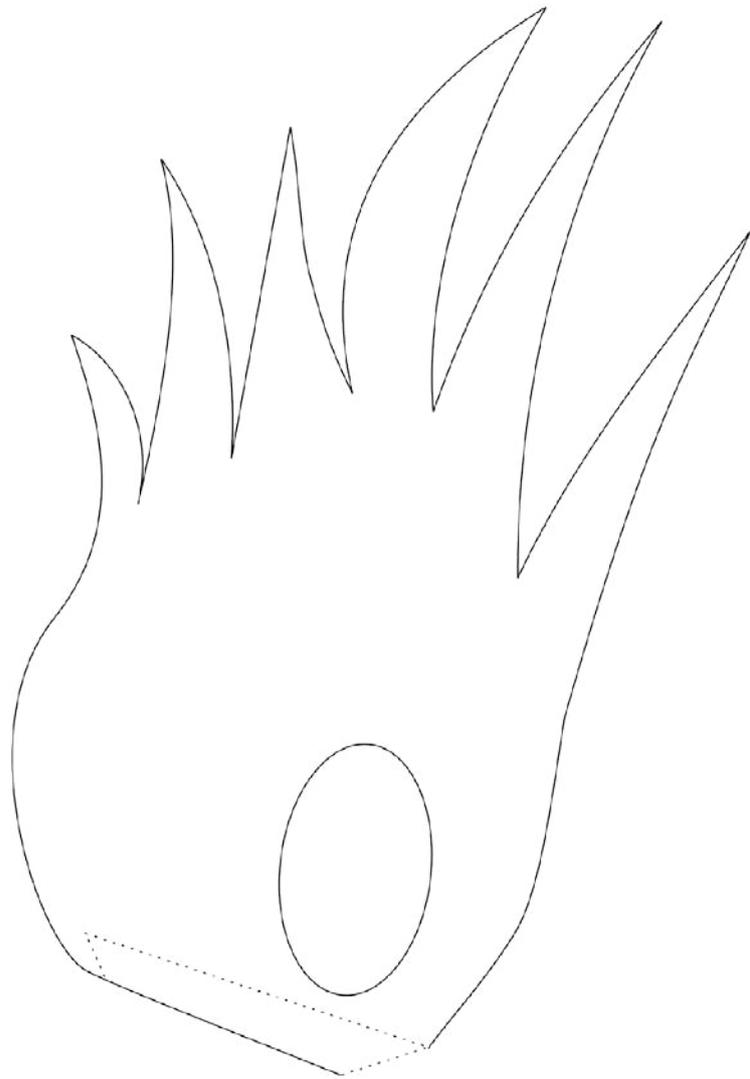
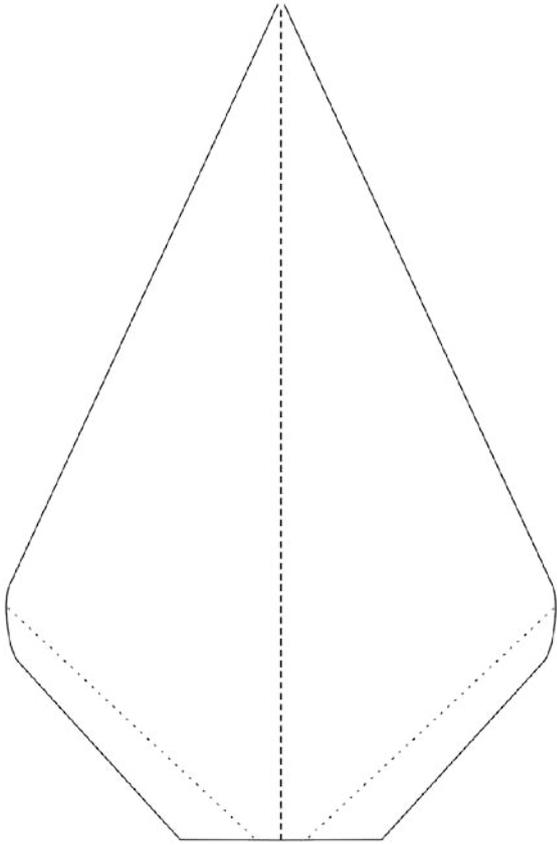
1. Materials needed

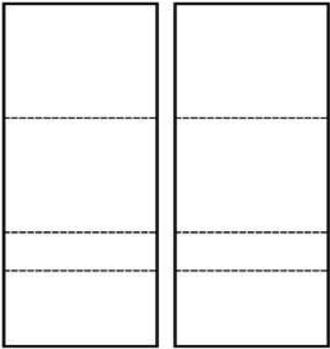
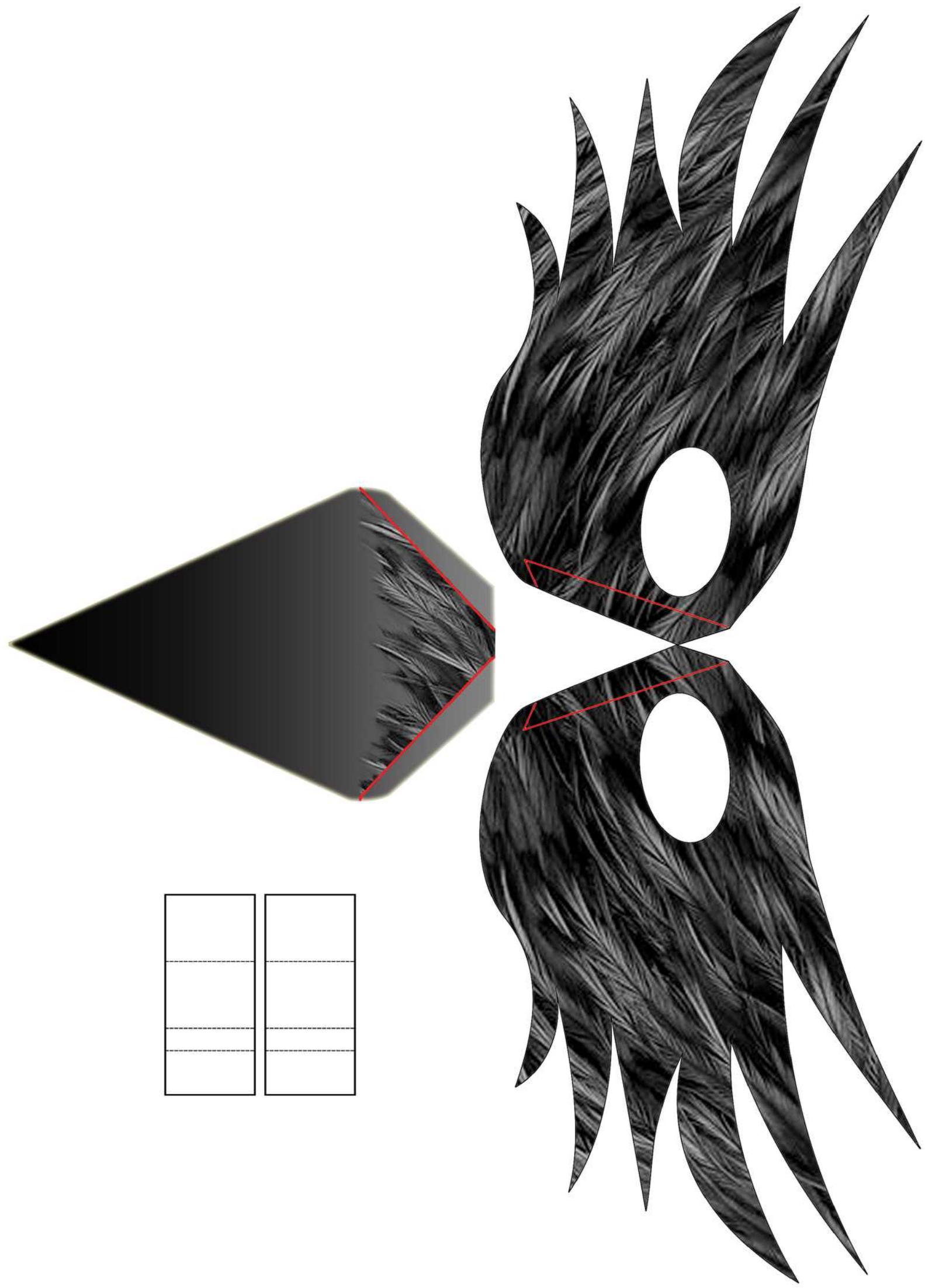
1. Thick paper or card
2. Scissors
3. Glue
4. Paints
5. Elastic string or String

2. Instructions

1. Print out the Raven Mask template on thick paper or normal paper and glue to card.
2. Cut by following the cutting guide line.
Note : The eyes are tricky to cut, so it should be done by an adult or under the guidance of an adult. It helps to bend the mask slightly in half over the eyes to help with the cutting.
3. Fold the beak along the middle dashed line. Then fold the two top dashed lines and glue to the two mask segments.
4. There are two rectangular pieces you can fold and use on the template. Glue these onto the back of the mask as shown. Attach the string as shown in the photo.







HOW TO MAKE A HELMET

Every scene will need 10 of these.

1. Materials needed :

- Scissors
- Tape
- and a length of String or paper

2. Instructions :

1. Print out the 2 parts per child. Cut out pieces on page. Cut out the eye hole in each piece for that Norman feel to the helmet cut out the eye holes so there is only a nose bridge.
2. Turn the two pieces over (face down) and position them together as shown in figure with the edges touching but not overlapping. Tape the straight area where they meet.
3. Now turn the entire piece around so the four points are facing you. Begin taping together the two middle edges, starting between the eyes and working towards the outside. It's VERY important to join only half an inch or so at a time, and don't let the edges overlap. The piece should begin to curve as you work your way outwards, as shown in figure 1b. This seam may prove difficult at first, but it's easy once you get the hang of it. After the two edges are joined all the way to the corners (don't join the small flat areas at the top) you may join the two outer sections.



top left piece



top right piece