

**SCENE I. A desert place.**

Stage directions: setting the mood for the audience.

*Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches*

Shakespeare using the weather to foreshadowing. Bad weather could indicate that something bad is going to happen.

**First Witch**

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

**HOOK:** Play starts off in the woods with the witches. These two lines show how that their meeting is finished. Whatever they were up to, the reader has to guess. Shakespeare wants to make the reader curious.

**Second Witch**

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

**CONTEXT OF COMPOSITION:** during this time period, people were fascinated with the supernatural. Shakespeare started off the play with the three witches to get the audience's attention and to get them interested in what will happen.

**Third Witch**

That will be ere the set of sun.

**First Witch**

Where the place?

**The Language of the Witches:**

**Second Witch**

Upon the heath.

**Rhyming couplets-** gives a sinister air to the play; dark & evil.

**Third Witch**

There to meet with Macbeth.

**Rhyming to us today may seem childish, but in this time period where witchcraft was help more seriously, rhyming had a different effect on the audience.**

**First Witch**

I come, Graymalkin!

**Animal symbolism: Graymalkin:** gray cat; familiar of first witch

**Second Witch**

Paddock calls.

**Paddock:** toad; familiar of 2<sup>nd</sup> witch

**Third Witch**

Anon.

**FAMILIAR:** believed to be supernatural entities that would assist witches in their practice of magic.

**ALL**

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

**Reinforces the idea that this is a frightening and mysterious world where supernatural has some power.**

*Exeunt*

Important to note Shakespeare **CHOSE** to start off and structure this way.

He wants to establish to the read that the supernatural and dark atmosphere will have a strong important in the play.