**Project Brief: Macbeth Crown Theatrical Prop as Metaphors**

Considered as one of Shakespeare's most iconic plays, *Macbeth* is loaded with metaphor linked to overlapping themes including blind ambition, damnation, prophecy, and moral order. His desire to be king comes at an enormous price. In this sample lesson, students explore Shakespeare’s text using passages of the play to support the validity of the design for a crown that could be used as a stage prop.

“Design thinking” about the features and functions of a metaphorical crown starts by formulating and answering some key questions:

* What are the key themes in *Macbeth*?
* What characteristics of Macbeth could be portrayed in a crown?
* Why in the play does Macbeth speak about a hollow crown?
* How could the material used for the crown serve as a symbolic feature?
* How might the prophecies of the three sisters influence the design of the crown?
* Will the crown actually be used in a live stage production?
* What types of criteria need to be considered if the crown design is to be fabricated using 3D printing?
* What is your schedule for completion?
* What inspires you most about this project?

**Process**:

For this theatrical prop project, the first task is to develop basic skills in using Autodesk® 123D Design® software to develop concepts as part of the Design Thinking ideation stage. After completing the sample Macbeth crown, students are encouraged to develop their own designs and apply their knowledge of the software to generate multiple concepts for alternative designs. The bottom line is this: if students can expand and enhance their ability to combine the innovation capabilities of the software and the power of the design thinking process, then the goals of this curriculum have been achieved.

**Design considerations used in the example project are as follows**:

* Purpose: To design a crown design to be used as a theatrical prop for a production of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*
* Target user: Actor or student conducting a presentation on *Macbeth*
* Materials to be used: Plastic or metal
* Size, shape, and weight: Variable
* Scheduling requirements: 1–5 hours