Witchcraft and superstition in the seventeenth century

1. What was the name of the publication on witches that James I wrote?
2. What other evidence have we that James was interested in witches and witchcraft?
3. What were some of the common beliefs about witches in the 17th century?
4. What was a “familiar” and what kinds of animals were commonly believed to be familiars?
5. What was “mischief following anger”? Can you link this to any of the scenes involving the witches? (cast a spell or ‘charm’ in retaliation (1.3.37).)
6. How did people in Jacobean England believe that witches could be identified?
7. What punishments could be expected by those found guilty of witchcraft?
8. What signs did some people in the 17th century believe could be seen in a person who was under the influence of witchcraft (like Macbeth and Lady Macbeth)? (see p166 – 167)
9. Identify in the script of ***Macbeth*** some of the beliefs about witches that you discovered in the course of your research.
10. Find five quotations from the play which link to the Jacobean belief in witches and witchcraft.