

Macbeth



Home Learning Booklet

You can find the text with a full modern English translation here (copy into browser):

<https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/macbeth/page 2/>

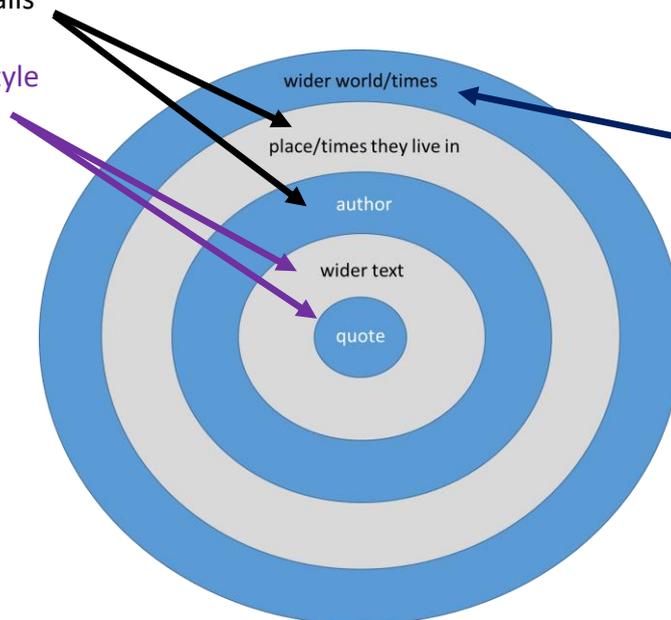
Before reading a novel or a play, it is often useful to find some information about the author (writer) and also the context in which it was written.

Context = details of the time and place in which a text was written.

This can include ideas about:

- the author's own life and experiences
- people's relationships in society
- social class (rich/poor)
- religious beliefs and stories and ideas of fate /destiny
- the morals and values people hold (right/wrong)
- ideas about laws and politics and the monarchy (royalty)
- key historical events (e.g. WWI)
- current scientific understanding of the natural world (e.g. Darwin's theory of survival of fittest)

Understanding some of these details can help us to interpret **why an author has included a particular style of character or event in their text**



We can link the author's ideas to bigger, universal ideas which *transcend* time and place and may still be relevant today

TASK: You are now going to **complete some independent research to discover information about the context and background of Shakespeare's Macbeth which was written in 16th Century England but based in Medieval Scotland, some 500 years earlier.**

Use the resources below to complete the table on the following page in detail:

- ✓ Wikipedia – always double-check facts from here as it is written by ordinary people
- ✓ Google searches of key terms
- ✓ Text/exercise books from other subjects e.g. history, geography, science, RS, PHSE
- ✓ Information from the Powerpoint slides sent with your booklet, attached to Classcharts task
- ✓ Parents/relatives who may know about the novel and the times

Context Research Notes

The Tudor Usurpers	Click to type
Religious Allusion	
The Story of the Scots	
The Real Macbeth	
Witches & witchcraft	
King James I	

What **information can you find out about the author, William Shakespeare**, and his life prior to writing the play? **List five most important facts here:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What is the most surprising fact you have just discovered about the context of Macbeth?
[Click here to type](#)

Which aspects of the context you have just discovered do you think is the most important to the play? Write a brief paragraph explaining how your ideas.
[Click here to type](#)

What can you infer about the roles of men and women at the time Shakespeare was writing and how is this different or similar to today's society?
[Click here to type](#)

Vocabulary

Match up these words to their definitions. Check answers online.

Vocabulary
Ambition
Loyalty
Equality
Suspicion
Supernatural

Definitions
The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.
Attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.
A strong desire to do or achieve something.
A feeling or thought that something is possible, likely, or true.
A strong feeling of support or allegiance.

Archaic = very old fashioned; words from a dated language that are no longer in every day use

The English language has changed since Shakespeare's time. Think about how your own vocabulary differs from your parents and has altered as you've grown up – would you refer to anything as 'groovy'...? [See if you can match these archaic expressions from Macbeth to their modern meaning:](#)

Hurly burly

*"When the **hurly-burly's** done, when the battle's lost and won."* Second Witch 1.1.3

Chaps

*"...Till he unseamed him from the nave to the **chaps**..."* Captain 1.2.22

Marshall'st

*"Thou **marshall'st** me the way that I was going."* Macbeth 2.1.43

Weird

*"The **weird** sisters, hand in hand, posters of the sea and land..."* Witches 1.3.32

Soliciting

*"This supernatural **soliciting** cannot be ill..."* Macbeth 1.3.134

Supernatural

Persuasion

Cheeks

Direct

Chaos

Vocabulary Quiz

Which noun means 'excessive pride or confidence'?

1. Hubris.
2. Hamartia.
3. Machiavellian.
4. Villainy.

Which noun is a strong desire to do or achieve something?

1. Hamartia.
2. Ambition.
3. Catharsis.
4. Desire.

Which noun means manliness?

1. Femininity
2. Masculinity.
3. Matriarchal.
4. Patriarchal.

Which adjective means cunning and sly?

1. Machiavellian.
2. Patriarchal.
3. Ambitious.
4. Chivalrous.

Femininity is...

1. The quality of being male.
2. Being a weak man.
3. Rejecting your womanliness.
4. The quality of being female.

A prophecy is...

1. Encouragement to do bad things.
2. Encouragement to do good things.
3. Interpreting events in the past.
4. A prediction of the future.

A soliloquy is...

1. A speech given to the audience.
2. A release from strong emotions.
3. A belief in the supernatural.
4. Another name for the royal family.

Which adjective describes a social system where men hold the power and influence??

1. Paternal.
2. Patriarchal.
3. Maternal.
4. Matriarchal.

What is chivalry?

1. Cowardice, diplomacy, courtesy.
2. Bravery, military skill, courtesy.
3. Wicked or criminal behaviour.
4. Unfair, unjust and cruel rule.

What is duplicity?

1. Honesty and straight-forwardness.
2. Excessive pride or confidence.
3. A strong desire or wish for someone.
4. Deceitfulness or being two-faced.

Which noun is a worry that you are being persecuted or picked on?

1. Cowardice.
2. Tyranny.
3. Catharsis.
4. Paranoia.

Which verb means to take someone's place illegally or by force?

1. Usurp.
2. Prophesise.
3. Tyrannise.
4. Desire.

Tyranny is...

1. Wicked or criminal behaviour.
2. A belief in the supernatural.
3. A serious disagreement or argument.
4. An unfair, unjust or cruel governance.

Hamartia is...

1. A fatal flaw leading to a hero's downfall.
2. Releasing strong emotions.
3. A worry you're being victimised.
4. Deceitful behaviour.

Watching the story of Macbeth

Find the animated tales version of Macbeth here:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=macbeth+animated+tales&&view=detail&mid=887C4505EB4A3F3C8E1E887C4505EB4A3F3C8E1E&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dmacbeth%2Banimated%2Btales%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

Watch the version and then answer the questions below. You can watch a different, extended production of the play if you have access to it, as long as it is age appropriate.

I watched Macbeth on _____ (time and date), with _____.

Did you enjoy it, why or why not?

How much did you understand of the basic plot?

Did you feel sorry for any of the characters? Did you like or dislike any of the characters, why?

How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth (his wife) change as the play goes on? Do you think they were right or wrong to do what they did?

Did you expect the play to end in the way that it did?

Macbeth: The Simplified Story



The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of witches and then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King Duncan hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and Banquo, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland and one from Norway.

Following their battle with these enemy forces, Macbeth and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be made thane (a rank of Scottish nobility) of Cawdor and eventually King of Scotland. They also prophesy that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will start a line of Scottish kings, although Banquo will never be king himself.



The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their prophecies sceptically until some of King Duncan's men come to thank the two generals for their victories in battle and to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named thane of Cawdor. The previous thane betrayed Scotland by fighting for the Norwegians and Duncan has condemned him to death. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the remainder of the witches' prophecy—that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth's castle, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her all that has happened.



Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to murder Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections and persuades him to kill the king that very night.

He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenceless, as they will remember nothing.

While Duncan is asleep, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts and a number of supernatural portents, including a vision of a bloody dagger.

When Duncan's death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth kills the chamberlains—pretending to be outraged at their crime—and soon becomes king. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain flee to England and Ireland, respectively, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires their deaths as well.

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's heirs will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who escapes into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure.



At the feast that night, Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. Lady Macbeth tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship now falls under suspicion from his nobles and subjects.



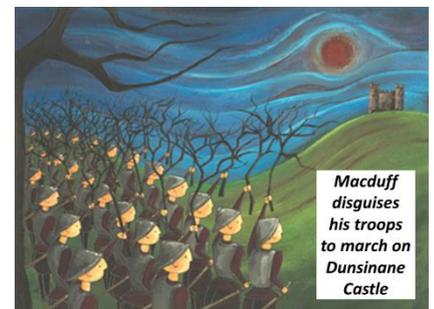
Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches in their cavern. There, they show him a sequence of demons and spirits who present him with further prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's accession to the throne; he is incapable of being harmed by any man born of woman; and he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and

that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that Lady Macduff and her children be murdered. When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows revenge.

Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to Scotland to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical and murderous behaviour.

Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of sleepwalking in which she bemoans what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has killed herself, causing him to sink into a deep and pessimistic despair.

Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his invincibility. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' prophecy.



In the battle, Macbeth fights violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not "of woman born" but was instead "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (what we now call birth by caesarean section). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him. Malcolm, now the King of Scotland, declares his benevolent intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned at Scone.



12-Step Macbeth including key quotes

1. On a dark, stormy Scottish night, three witches plot to meet Macbeth on his way home from battle.

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

2. Macbeth fought bravely, decapitating his opponent and gaining victory for King Duncan. Exhausted from battle, Macbeth and his friend Banquo meet the witches, who make a prophecy...

All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter.

3. Lady Macbeth is afraid her husband is too weak-willed to fulfil his destiny. When she hears that King Duncan is coming to their castle, she decides they must kill him and persuades Macbeth to do it...

Look like th'innocent flower, but be the serpent under't.

4. Lady Macbeth gets the king's bodyguards drunk, and as they sleep Macbeth murders the king and smears the drunken bodyguards with blood to frame them. He is tortured by what he has done and hears voices in his head.

O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife.

5. Macbeth is crowned King of Scotland – and has his friend Banquo killed to keep him quiet about the witches' prophecy. At his coronation feast Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost and is terrified.

Quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!

6. Macbeth meets the witches again, and they give him three messages...

Beware Macduff!

None of woman born shall harm Macbeth.

Macbeth shall never vanquished be until Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill shall come against him.

7. Macduff is King Duncan's loyal servant, so Macbeth attacks his castle and has his family killed.

Give to th'edge o'th'sword his wife, babes, and all...

8. Lady Macbeth feels so guilty that she begins to walk and talk in her sleep – and constantly washes her hands to clean off the blood of those Macbeth has murdered.

Out damned spot! Out I say! Here's the smell of blood still.

9. Macduff gathers his army near Birnam Wood, close to Dunsinane Castle – but because of the witches' prophecies, Macbeth is not worried.

I will not be afraid of death and bane till Birnam Forest come to Dunsinane.

10. Macduff orders his men to chop down branches from the trees and disguise themselves as they march on the castle. Macbeth realises that the second prediction has come true.

And now a wood comes towards Dunsinane.

11. Macbeth is deserted by his men, but stays to fight on – confident that the witches' final prediction will protect him – none from a woman borne can harm him. But then he discovers something unexpected...

Turn, hell-hound, turn. Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped.

12. Macduff kills Macbeth, returning the crown to its rightful owner, Malcolm.

Hail, King of Scotland!!!

Plot Summary

Fill in the missing words to complete the plot of *Macbeth* act by act. Read the whole paragraph through before filling in the missing words from the box below each one.

You can find a detailed summary of the play here: [shakespeare.org.uk Macbeth](http://shakespeare.org.uk/Macbeth)

Or a quick overview and more resources here: [Royal Shakespeare Company Learning Zone](#)

Vocabulary:

Prophecy, to prophesise – a prediction of what will happen in the future

Thane – a lord of Scotland

Suspiciously – with a caution or distrust

Portents – a sign or warning that a momentous event is likely to happen

Heirs – descendants or a people who inherit

Subjects – a member of a state or country that is not its ruler

Accession – the attainment or acquisition of a position of rank or power

Tyrannical – using power in a cruel and unnecessary way

Pessimistic – tending to believe that the worst will happen

Caesarean section – a surgical operation to deliver a baby by cutting into the mother

Benevolent – well-meaning and kindly

Act 1

The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of _____ who state their intention to meet with Macbeth. The action then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King _____ hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and _____, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland, led by the rebel Macdonwald, and one from Norway.

witches

Banquo

Duncan

Following their battle with these enemy forces, _____ and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches **prophesise** that Macbeth will be made _____ and, eventually, King of Scotland. They also _____ that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will be father to a line of Scottish _____, although Banquo will never be king himself. The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their

prophecies **suspiciously** until some of King Duncan’s men come to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named **Thane** of Cawdor. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the other part of the witches’ _____ — that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits with King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth’s _____, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, _____, telling her all that has happened.

Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband’s uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to _____ Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides her husband’s objections and _____ him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan’s two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenceless, as they will remember nothing.

murder	Thane of Cawdor	kings	persuades
	Macbeth		
Lady Macbeth	prophecy	castle	prophesise

Act 2

While Duncan is _____, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts and a number of supernatural **portents**, including a vision of a _____. When Duncan’s death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth _____ the chamberlains—apparently out of rage at their crime—and easily assumes the kingship. Duncan’s sons _____ and Donalbain flee to England and Ireland, respectively, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires their demise as well.

kills	Malcolm	asleep	bloody dagger
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Act 3

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's **heirs** will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of _____ to kill _____ and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who _____ into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure. At the feast that night, Banquo's _____ visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. _____ tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship incites increasing resistance from his nobles and **subjects**.

ghost	Lady Macbeth	escapes	Banquo
		murderers	

Act 4

Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches again. There, they show him a sequence of _____ who present him with further prophecies: firstly, he must beware of _____, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's **accession** to the throne; secondly, he is incapable of being harmed by any man _____; and, finally, he will be safe until _____ comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that _____ and her children be murdered.

When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows _____. Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to _____ to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the

support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's **tyrannical** and murderous behaviour.

Scotland	Lady Macduff	revenge	demons
	and spirits		
Birnam Wood	born of woman		Macduff

Act 5

Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of _____ in which she sees what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has _____, causing him to sink into a deep and **pessimistic** despair.

Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his _____. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with branches cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' _____.

In the battle, Macbeth fights violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not "of woman born" but was instead "_____ " from his mother's womb (what we now call birth by **caesarean section**). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him.

_____, now the King of Scotland, declares his **benevolent** intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned.

invincibility	prophecy	Malcolm
died	untimely ripped	sleepwalking

The Witches



Think about films or books you have read: what qualities does a witch typically have?

What can you remember from your research into witchcraft in the 16th Century? Look back or look online again to find at least five facts about it:

True or false?

In Shakespeare's time, people believed that witches:

could control the weather	could sink ships
had the power of flight	had the ability to make people go mad
could vanish into thin air	would become your enemy if you refused them food
were able to change their physical form	usually 'worked' at night
could see into the future	had contact with the devil and their familiars (animals)
could bring disease and illnesses to crops, animals or people	were able to cast spells (for 'good' and 'bad') by chanting and making potions

Watch this clip showing the first 3 scenes of the play in modern English:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yo9XbFA1zU&list=PLcvEcrcF_9zIurvVuQFZxC2_OUlu09Un6

Now, read this scene through then answer the questions in the boxes.

Act 1 Scene 1

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

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

Second Witch

When the hurly-burly'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

What would an audience feel like if the play started with a storm?

The witches talk in rhyme – how might this make them seem different to the other characters?

The witches plan to meet Macbeth after the battle. Why do you think Shakespeare has the witches talk about Macbeth in the first scene?

What kind of impression do we get of Macbeth if he is associated with the witches from the beginning?

Graymalkin and Paddock are 'familiar' – animal companions of witches.

Anon – 'Until we meet later'

Anon – 'Until we meet later'

'Fair is foul and foul is fair:'

Why do you think Shakespeare uses this alliteration of the letter 'f' at the end of this scene? Say these last two lines out loud a few times... how does it feel?

The Witches - Description

Act 1 Scene 3

Banquo and Macbeth encounter the witches after the battle. This is how they are described:

BANQUO

... What are these

So wither'd and so wild in their attire,

That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,

And yet are on't?

Live you?

or are you aught

That man may question?

You seem to understand me,

By each at once her chappy finger laying

Upon her skinny lips:

you should be women,

And yet your beards forbid me to interpret

That you are so.

MACBETH

Speak, if you can:

what are you?

Remember, when reading Shakespeare, pause at the punctuation, breathe, and fill in the small words – for example **o'** means **on**, **on't** means **on it** – just like we use apostrophes for words like **don't**.

Before we look at what this means in detail, look at the highlighted words – what kind of picture is created in your head?

Answer:

The Witches - Presentation



Consider these images of the witches, what sorts of similarities and differences do you notice in different productions of *Macbeth*?

Similarities	Differences
<p>Which image do you think fits the descriptions on the previous page the best? Why?</p>	
<p>How do these witches fulfil the description of 'weird sisters' as we understand the word today?</p>	
<p>Why is it important to show the witches as strange and unusual?</p>	

You are now going to write a mini essay answering the question:

How does Shakespeare present the witches at the start of the play?

Your answer should include:

1. 2 x PEE paragraphs with 3-4 quotations from the play
2. specific references to the use of effects at the start of Act 1 Scene 1
3. ideas about the way the witches are described by Banquo and Macbeth
4. what you think Shakespeare wanted his 16thC audience to think
5. zoom in on key words to explore meanings/effects
6. Try to use specific terminology e.g. pathetic fallacy, adjective, metaphor

There are sentence starters and a checklist at the back of the booklet to help you if you need them.

Type here

Continue here

Give yourself a point for each of the things you have done on the checklist.

How many did you get out of 10?

I scored /10

Success criteria:

- Included an introduction**
- Made clear points in relation to quest**
- Identified language / structure devices using accurate terminology**
- Cited precise evidence to support**
- Explained effects on the reader**
- Zoomed in on key words**
- Multiple interpretations**
- Writer's message/intentions**
- Linked to context of the times**
- Used analytical, evaluative phrases - illustrates, emphasises, criticises, reinforces, con**

Email your mini essay to your teacher for feedback

Macbeth

List 5 ambitious adjectives to describe Macbeth at START:

type



List 5 ambitious adjectives to describe Macbeth at END:

type

Look up the definitions of these words and write a sentence for each to apply it to the character of Macbeth.

Patriotic

Definition =

Sentence:

Tyrannical

Definition =

Sentence:

Duplicitous

Definition =

Sentence:

Deranged

Definition =

Sentence:

Machiavellian

Definition =

Sentence:

Read this report of an army captain talking to the king about Macbeth's heroic actions in the battle at the start of Act 1.

CAPTAIN

Doubtful it stood,
As two spent swimmers that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald—
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him—from the Western Isles
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied,
And fortune, on his damnèd quarrel smiling,
Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak,
For brave Macbeth—well he deserves that name—
Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like Valor's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave;
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops,
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

Kerns & gallowglasses = Celtic soldiers
Valor = courage
Minion = follower/servant

Macbeth's sword is described as smoking – what do you think this says about how he is fighting?

Why do you think he is described as Valor's minion?

What can you tell from the fact that he sliced a man from the belly button to the cheeks?

How do you think Macbeth's role as a powerful patriotic warrior for the King links to his descent into a ruthless murderer later on?

List 5 ambitious adjectives to describe Lady Macbeth at START:

type

Lady Macbeth



List 5 ambitious adjectives to describe Lady Macbeth at END:

type

- Generally, women in Shakespeare's plays are either characterised as meek and mild or ambitious and devious
- Women had less freedom than their male counterparts in Shakespeare's Time.
- Women are never totally free in Shakespeare's plays: if not owned by husbands and fathers, many low class characters are owned by their employers.
- Women in power are treated with distrust by Shakespeare.

Watch this clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JR_Ek7rE-A

Look up the word feminism and write down the definition below:

How does Shakespeare present women and power in his play? (consider Lady Macbeth and the witches)

How are these ideas similar or different to women and power in today's society?



Read Lady Macbeth's soliloquy (speech to yourself) from Act 1 and complete the table with ideas about the gothic language and imagery Shakespeare uses and how this might have affected his audience, given their beliefs in the supernatural at the time.

This extract is taken from Act 1, Sc 5. Lady Macbeth has just received a letter from her husband to inform her of the witches' prophecies and a messenger has just told her King Duncan will be arriving at the castle shortly.

LADY MACBETH

The raven himself is hoarse
 That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan 40
 Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
 That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
 And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
 Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;
 Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
 That no compunctious visitings of nature
 Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
 The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
 And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,
 Wherever in your sightless substances 50
 You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
 And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,
 That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
 Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
 To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Enter MACBETH

<u>GOTHIC IMAGERY</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
'the raven himself is hoarse that croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan'	
'come you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here'	
'fill from the crown to the toe top-full of direst cruelty'	
'take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers'	
'come thick night, and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell'	

Summarise your understanding of the speech:

Some people refer to Lady Macbeth as the fourth witch. How far do you agree?

How far do you feel Lady Macbeth is responsible for the actions of her husband throughout the play?

What message do you think Shakespeare might be trying to send to his audience about women, power and/or witchcraft?



Read this conversation from Act 1 in which Macbeth tells his wife he has changed his mind about murdering King Duncan.

Why do you think Macbeth refers to the murder as 'this business'?

MACBETH We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

Why has Macbeth decided not to kill Duncan?

LADY MACBETH Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

What tactics does Lady Macbeth use to persuade her husband to keep his word? Find a quote and explain your idea.

MACBETH Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

What does this graphic violent image tell you about Lady Macbeth's personality and her attitudes to her role as a woman?

LADY MACBETH What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.

What is the effect of the contrast of 'smiling' and 'boneless' to 'plucked' and 'dash'd'?

MACBETH If we should fail?

Shakespeare lived in a *patriarchal society*, meaning that men were dominant (in charge). How might the audience have reacted to watching this part of the play?

LADY MACBETH We fail! But screw your courage to the sticking-
place, And we'll not fail

You are now going to complete a final essay question:

How does Shakespeare present Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and their relationship?

Things to think about when choosing quotes and planning your writing:

<p>What does the writer want us to think about these characters? → Identify 3-4 strong quotes potentially with a technique/interesting use of language → Explain each quote literally – who is talking to whom? What are they talking about? How do the characters feel? → Now think about symbolism or bigger ideas – what does this tell us?</p>	<p>How does the writer achieve it? → What has Shakespeare used – explain the technique/key word choice. If a metaphor or simile – what is compare to what and why? → What does it make you feel/do? → Define key words – now consider what are the connotations? → Does it have an emotional impact?</p>	<p>Why does it link to the 1600s and/or 2000s? → What is Shakespeare critiquing/raising awareness of/challenging/mockng? → Does it link to Jacobean society, values or beliefs? → How does it relate to mens'/women's role in Jacobean society?</p>
<p>AO1: Use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.</p>	<p>AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts, maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response. AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.</p>	<p>AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.</p>
<p>Can you use any vocabulary from your relevant vocabulary page? Or any vocabulary you would use to refer to characters in DNA or A Christmas Carol?</p>		

Possible quotes you could focus on:

- 'Brave Macbeth'
- 'Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops'
- 'Sword smoked with bloody execution'
- 'Yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness'
- 'Come, you spirits That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full Of direst cruelty!'
- 'We will hear no more of this business'
- 'Are you afeard?'
- 'When you durst do it then you were a man'
- 'And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you'

You are now going to write your essay answering the question:

How does Shakespeare present the Macbeths and their relationship?

Your answer should include:

1. Introduction, 3 x PEE paragraphs with 3-5 quotations from the play
2. Ideas about how each Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are presented to us
3. Ideas about how their relationship is presented
4. Zoom in on key words to explore meanings/effects
5. Try to use specific terminology e.g. pathetic fallacy, adjective, metaphor
6. Refer to the wider play – how do they change by the end
7. How do you think Shakespeare wanted his audience to react? What messages might he have been sending about gender and power?

Challenge: connect 2 quotes in a paragraph to reinforce your idea & try to offer alternative interpretations of key words/phrases

There are sentence starters and an essay checklist at back of the booklet if you need them.

Look at your teacher's feedback from your last mini essay and write your target below – this is what you should focus on improving in this piece:

My target is:

Type here

Type here

Self Assessment – then email essay to your teacher

- Read your response – what level do you think you have reached here, out of 1-4?
- Highlight where you have shown the skills of analysis in your work.

Skills of analysis	Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You make a point with relevant evidence but your comment does not explain your ideas fully or specifically. 	
<p>You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give details to make your point clear • explore meanings of key words • use some accurate terminology 	
<p>You:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate points in detail • look for additional word and phrases to explore in a quote • make connections across the text to develop your analysis • appreciate impacts on reader • use a range of accurate terminology to make ideas precise 	
<p>You:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand on ideas and evaluate (judge) how effective the author’s methods are • connect ideas across the text and wider novel to consider character & plot development • think beyond the book to explore writer’s wider messages about life/society • included specific links to context and social theory • use sophisticated terminology • use specific, challenging vocabulary to explain 	

Complete:

I feel I have worked towards my target by:

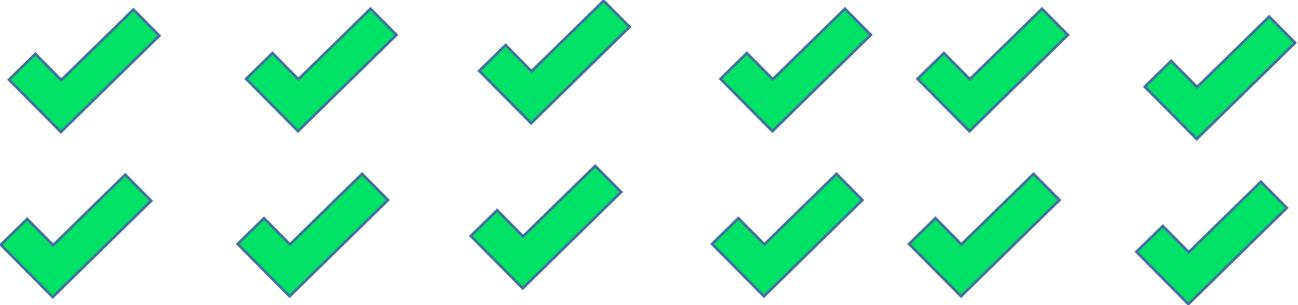
type

Next time I will try to include:

type

Essay Checklist

Read over your essay and drag a tick next to each skill you think you have hit on the checklist:



Success criteria:

- Create clear argument to the question
- 5 pars: Introduction, 3 x PEE, Conclusion
- Make points in relation to question
- Use terminology to identify techniques
- Quote evidence to support from extract
- Quote/reference from wider play
- Explain effects on reader
- Zoom in on key words to infer
- Explore multiple interpretations
- Comment on writer's intentions / message
- Link to context / social theory
- Use specific vocabulary to explain

TIP: Avoid 'This shows' - use the analysis phrases on page 4 to be more precise

I put % effort into this essay.

I am proud of my work because:

BASICS REFERENCE PAGE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK

PEE

- TOP TIP:** say a lot about a little
- ✓ synonyms for precision & variety
 - ✓ alternative interpretations
 - ✓ multiple connotations of same word
 - ✓ explore a second key word
 - ✓ identify effects of second technique

- Point** - technique & focus of question
- Evidence** - juicy/interesting quote to support
- Explain** - literal meaning (paraphrase, if it's not too obvious)
- Expand** - overall inferences and suggestions from language
- Explore** - zoom in on key words & connotations to reinforce ideas
- Effects** - impact of words/techniques on reader
- Evaluate** - writer's intentions - purpose / wider message
- Link** - to context (wider text, times it was written in & modern day)
- S&C:** briefly link quote to reinforce

BASIC SENTENCE STARTERS:

- Point** - The writer uses... to ...
- Evidence** - A quote to show this... For example...
- Explain** - This means... Literally, this states/shows/tells us
- Expand** - This suggests... It is possible to infer...
- Explore** - The word/noun/verb ... indicates... reinforces this as...
- Effects** - This might make the reader think/feel...
- Evaluate** - Perhaps Dickens was celebrating/criticising/reminding us
- Link** - Later/earlier in the play... These ideas highlight / echo / emphasise... This message is still relevant today as...
- S&C:** This sentiment/message is perhaps reinforced by

Specifically...	Alternatively...	Furthermore...
Personally...	In contrast...	Similarly...

ANALYSING

Try to use more meaningful alternatives for **this suggests...**

highlights	creates	symbolises
portrays	evokes	represents
illustrates	conjures	connotes
exhibits	emphasises	signifies
conveys	reinforces	foreshadows
reveals	proposes	reveals

CONTEXT

When introducing context, consider what the writer may be trying to achieve: what comment are they making on society? Is there a message? E.g. The writer may be...

- Criticising (condemning)
- Questioning (challenging, examining, exposing)
- Ridiculing (mocking, trivialising)
- Celebrating (honouring, glorifying, idealising)
- Subverting (undermining, satirising)

Try not to say 'In those days...' or just give facts... use phrases like 'the Elizabethan/Jacobean era...' and make the fact relevant to the part of the play you are discussing.

EFFECTS

Texts affect people in different ways, influenced by personal experiences and views. These effects can be:

- Intellectual** – ideas/impressions
- Emotional** – fear, sadness, pity, sympathy
- Imaginative** – sensory immersion
- Physical** – nausea, goose-bumps
- Transformative** – changing their view/life

If you don't feel anything, try to consider the impact on a typical reader.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- **Your view?**
- Go **beyond the text** - tools of the writer to **SAY something**
- Universal **message?**
- Consider **THEN & NOW**

Specifically, the word/verb...
On closer inspection...
To examine this further...

Basic terminology

1. **adjective** = describing words *white, tall*
2. **noun** = naming an object, person, thing *book, Joe*
3. **verb** = action words *walk, talking*
4. **adverb** = describing an action *quickly, loudly*
5. **simile** = compare by using like/as *quiet as a mouse*
6. **metaphor** – non-literal, compare by saying something IS something else *he is God, lightning cracked the sky*