

GCSE Macbeth William Shakespeare



Characterisation

- Macbeth is an intelligent man. As he becomes more and more of a **tyrant** he stops planning and thinking and acts impulsively. Can you give three examples that show this change?
- Could you say that Lady Macbeth's cruelty is driven by her own unrealised desire for a child? Think of two things she says or does.
- Lady Macbeth provides a constant link and reminder to the witches and their actions. Give two examples.
- Is it true to say that Banquo acts as a foil for Macbeth?
Give two ways in which this is true.

Structure and Language

- In what way could you say that the structure of this play sees Macbeth return to his **hero like** state at the end?
- Why is the final Act of the play filled with so many short scenes both inside and outside the castle?
- Give two examples of where we see characters using prose rather than **iambic pentameter**. Which characters use it? What does this reflect?
- Sleep and snakes are **metaphors** that are used throughout the play. Give examples and explain why?

Find a Quote that Shows...

- Macbeth is a brave warrior. Find one from the start and then one from the end of the play.
- Lady Macbeth is a vulnerable, lonely woman in a patriarchal society.
- Banquo wants to remain loyal to the King and his own values.
- Malcolm would be no better King than Macbeth.
- The witches are the deliberate manipulators of Macbeth's fate.

Themes and Motifs

Give an example of a moment in the play where you see the following themes and motifs:

- Ambition
- Kingship
- Masculinity
- The Supernatural
- Power
- Femininity
- Blood
- Guilt
- Control
- Truth vs Deceit

Can you also use a quote for each moment?

Dramatic Irony

- Give two examples of dramatic irony in the play.
- How does the use of **dramatic irony** present the characters of the witches and Macbeth to the audience?
- How does Shakespeare use dramatic irony to make the audience feel sympathy (or not) for the characters?