

## KEY CHARACTERS



**Macbeth** is the tragic hero whose fatal flaw (ambition) leads him to murder the King and fall from grace. He represents bravery, ambition, power and guilt.

**Lady Macbeth** is an unorthodox and powerful female character who uses her influence over her husband to gain power. She represents ambition, cunning, manipulation and guilt..



**The Witches** represent the supernatural and evil within the play but are they completely to blame?

**Banquo** is Macbeth's best friend and acts as a FOIL (contrast) to Macbeth, showing him always what he SHOULD have done e.g. not listen to the 'instruments of darkness'.



**Macduff** is a Scottish Lord who is noble, as is his family. They therefore present a contrast to the Macbeth's throughout.

**Duncan** is King of Scotland and represents everything a good King should be. He is always presented in contrast to Macbeth as the better King.



**Malcom** is the legitimate King of Scotland and seen as God's chosen King when he takes back the throne

# MACBETH KO KS4 Y10-11

## KEY QUOTES

### Act Summaries

#### ACT ONE:

1. The witches plan to meet with Macbeth
2. Macbeth is described by the captain and Duncan gives Macbeth the title 'Thane of Cawdor'
3. Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches who give them the three prophecies and Macbeth is then named Thane of Cawdor
4. Duncan declares that his son Malcom will be King— Macbeth thinks of regicide
5. Lady Macbeth receives a letter from Macbeth about the prophecies and calls on the spirits
6. Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle
7. Macbeth agonises over killing the king and is manipulated by his wife

#### ACT TWO:

1. Macbeth is led to Duncan's chamber by a dagger
2. Macbeth has killed the King and Lady Macbeth tries to calm him in his guilt and paranoia
3. Duncan's body is discovered and Malcom and Donalbain flee

#### ACT THREE:

1. Banquo is worried about Macbeth and Macbeth is worried about Banquo and plans to have him assassinated
2. Lady Macbeth and Macbeth discuss Banquo
3. Banquo is killed and Fleance escapes
4. Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost at the banquet
5. The witches meet Hecate
6. Lennox and another Lord talk about how Macbeth is a tyrant

#### ACT FOUR:

1. Macbeth goes back to see the witches and they give him three more prophecies
2. Macduff's family is murdered
3. Macduff and Malcom discuss Kingship and Macduff is told that his family is dead

#### ACT FIVE:

1. Lady Macbeth wanders the corridors trying to wash imaginary blood from her hands
2. Scottish Lords discuss the coming battle and how awful Macbeth is
3. Macbeth is arrogant and says no one can harm him
4. Malcom's army cut down branches from Birnam wood to camouflage themselves
5. Lady Macbeth dies and when Macbeth is told he talks about the futility of life
6. The battle begins
7. Macbeth kills many in the battle
8. Macduff kills Macbeth and Malcom becomes King

- 2: 'Brave Macbeth' - 'disdaining fortune'
- 3: 'Why do I yield to that suggestion whose horrid image doth unfix my hair'
- 4: 'Stars hide your fires let not light see my black and deep desires'
- 5: 'too full of the milk of human kindness' 'unsex me here'
- 7: 'I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent only vaulting ambition' 'when you durst do it then you were a man'

- 1: 'Is this a dagger I see before me?'
- 2: 'will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hands? No'
- 3: 'the night has been unruly'

- 1: 'Our fears in Banquo stick deep'
- 2: 'O, full of Scorpions is my mind'
- 4: 'cabined, cribbed, confined' 'thou canst not say I did it' 'I am in blood stepped in so far that, should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'er' 'blood will have blood'

- 1: 'I conjure you'
- 3: 'Black Macbeth' 'Bleed, bleed, poor country'

- 1: 'Out damn spot!'
- 2: 'Tyrant'
- 3: 'My way of life has fallen into the sere, the yellow leaf'
- 5: 'She should have died hereafter' - 'in creeps this petty pace from day to day'
- 8: 'Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped' - 'this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen'

## KEY WORDS

**Jacobean:** the audience at the time *Macbeth* was written

**Fate:** something beyond your control

**Supernatural:** witches, spirits, hallucinations

**Unorthodox:** not traditional or conventional

**Natural Justice:** karma – reaping what you sow

**Honour:** high respect

**Ambition:** a strong desire to do or achieve something / to better your position

**Corruption:** making/turning someone or something bad or morally wrong

**Tyrant:** a cruel and oppressive leader

**Conscience:** your sense of right and wrong

**Hallucination:** visions created by your mind

**Hardened/Brutalised:** to make someone cruel or violent

**Slaughterous:** someone who kills violently

**Determined:** made a firm decision

**Megalomaniac:** obsessed with power

**Legitimate King:** the rightful King (chosen by God)

**Illegitimate King:** unlawful King (not chosen by God)

**Mirroring:** when a writer links back to something that was said earlier on in the text

**Incriminate:** make someone appear guilty

**Remorseful:** feeling bad for what you have done and actively changing your behaviour to make it right

**Desensitised:** making someone less sensitive/caring about someone or something

**Nihilistic:** if you are nihilistic you see no meaning or point to life

# MACBETH KO YEAR 10-11

## KEY MOTIFS

Light & dark



Blood

Mother's mi



religion



The natural world

illness & disease



## CONTEXT

### THE ROLE OF WOMEN

- The Jacobean period was patriarchal (ruled by men)
- Women were considered beneath men in the **Great Chain of Being**
- Men and women had strict rules about how to behave: women were to be subservient, loyal, obedient and caring.
- A woman's principle role was to bear children
- Lady Macbeth subverts this role by being domineering, manipulative and ambitious throughout the play

### WITCHES AND THE SUPERNATURAL

- Jacobean's believed in witches and the supernatural and that they were agents of the devil – always evil-doers
- Witches were thought to be women who had sold their souls to the devil for magical powers and anyone associated with them must therefore be evil
- King James I was particularly concerned about the threat of witches during his reign and led a terrible campaign to capture and kill all suspected Witches throughout England

### THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS

- King/Queen chosen by God and therefore had the divine right to rule
- **Regicide** was a terrible crime because you were seen as actively going against God
- Everything had it's place in the **natural order** of things – to disrupt that order as Macbeth does would throw the world into chaos

### JACOBAN ENGLAND

- Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* when King James I was on the throne
- In the Jacobean era there were strict rules for how a man had to behave: strong, loyal, brave, dominant etc.
- While *Macbeth* conforms to these traits within the play, he is also easily manipulated by his wife and the witches and could therefore be seen as weak

### THE TRAGIC HERO

- The **Tragic Hero** is the protagonist in the tragedy who starts off in a position of power and respect
- Through a combination of **fate** and his **fatal flaw**, this tragic hero falls from grace and loses everything – the hero also exhibits **hubris (pride and arrogance)**
- *Macbeth's Fatal Flaw* is his ambition and the representations of **fate** in the play are the Witches



GCSE POD *Macbeth* podcasts and  
Check & Challenge quizzes



Mr Bruff *Macbeth* characterisation  
videos

MINI-QUIZ CONTEXT



MINI-QUIZ VOCAB



MINI-QUIZ CHARACTER



To do well n this unit you will

- Recap the plot & who the main characters are
- Know what themes are explored in the play and how they are explored through different characters & events (the main themes are power, guilt, violence, appearances v reality, kingship)
- Know how *Macbeth*, Lady *Macbeth* & *Banquo* are presented and how Shakespeare uses language to convey their characters
- Understand the context to the play and be able to make detailed specific links between the text & the context using references
- Understand how Shakespeare uses motifs in the play to explore characters and themes
- Be able to write analytically about the main characters and themes analysing writer's purpose AND writer's methods

Links to other units

*Macbeth* in Year 9 (plot, character, genre)

Themes explored a cross texts studied previously e.g. morality, hierarchy, responsibility & injustice as well as gender roles