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| **PLOT** | | | **CHARACTERS** | | **KEY QUOTATIONS** | | Image result for st bartholomew's school logo**MACBETH - SHAKESPEARE** |
| **Act 1** | Three witches meet Macbeth and Banquo on a heath and give Macbeth three prophecies – that he will be Thane of Cawdor, Thane of Glamis and King of Scotland. Macbeth is then awarded with the title Thane of Glamis for his battle skills. He lets Lady Macbeth know about the prophecies and she persuades him to Kill King Duncan to speed them up. | | **Macbeth** | Protagonist turned antagonist. Tragic hero. Suffers from fatal flaw (hamartia) of ambition. Successful soldier. Once King, lives in anxiety and fear, unable to rest. | **The witches** | “Fair is foul and foul is fair” |
| **Lady Macbeth** | “Unsex me here… come to my woman’s breasts and take my milk for gall” “shame to wear a heart so white” |
| **Lady Macbeth** | “Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it” |
| **Act 2** | Macbeth kills King Duncan, despite being very apprehensive beforehand. Lady Macbeth and Macbeth frame the guards and Malcolm and Donalbain, Duncan’s sons, flee to England scared for their lives. Banquo is suspicious. | | **Lady Macbeth** | Ambitious wife. Both conforms to gender stereotypes (ultimately guilt drives her to suicide), and breaks them (asks to be unsexed so that she can kill, is ambitious for power). It is strongly suggested that she has had a child but lost him. | **Macbeth** | “I have no spur  To prick the sides of my intent, but only  Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself  And falls on th' other.” |
| **Macbeth** | “I am cabined, cribbed, confined.” |
| **Act 3** | Macbeth and Banquo do not trust each other. Macbeth has Banquo murdered, but his son, Fleance, escapes and could still be a future King. Macbeth is plagued with guilt and sees Banquo’s ghost at his first royal banquet. He visits the witches again for peace of mind. | | **Banquo** | Macbeth’s best friend on the battle field. Loyal soldier and father. Hears the witches’ prophecies with Macbeth. Provides a sharp contrast to Macbeth and highlights his flaws. | **Macbeth** | “O’ full of scorpions is my mind.” |
| **Lady Macbeth** | “Out, out damned spot!” “Make thick my blood” |
| **Act 4** | The witches tell him that he is safe until Birnam Wood move to Dunsinane Hill, and that no man born of woman can harm Macbeth, so he feels indestructible. He has Macduff’s family killed to scare Macduff. News reaches Macduff in England and he prepares for revenge. | | **Duncan** | King Duncan. A respected King, who rewards his loyal soldiers fairly. Spoken of in positive terms until his murder. | **Old Man** | “A falcon, tow'ring in her pride of place,  Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed.” |
| **Malcolm** | “I think our country sinks beneath the yoke.  It weeps, it bleeds, and each new day a gash  Is added to her wounds.” |
| **Act 5** | Lady Macbeth sleepwalks and views blood on her hands. She commits suicide. Macbeth feels safe and boasts about his strength as Macduff leads an English army to him. Macbeth and Macduff fight where it is revealed Macduff was born via caesarean section, and so he kills Macbeth. Malcolm is crowned King. | | **Macduff** | Archetypal avenging hero. Thane of Fife. Loves Scotland dearly and risks his family’s safety to help Malcolm’s army in England. | **Macbeth** | "Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." |
| **VOCABULARY** | | | **Lady Macduff** | Macduff’s wife. | **CONTEXT** | |
| **Motif** | | A recurring theme or image e.g. the motif of blood is a constant reminder that guilt and its effect is never far away from the Macbeths. | **Malcolm & Donalbain** | Duncan’s sons. | **King James I** | Jacobean era. King of Scotland, succeeded Elizabeth I. Unstable rule, and play is often seen as a way to flatter his interests (witches) and warn against regicide. |
| **Hubris** | | Blind over-confidence. E.g. Macbeth’s hubris causes the audience to formulate a negative opinion of him. | **The witches** | Otherwise known as the weird sisters (*Weird* here comes from the Anglo-Saxon *wyrd*, and means fate or destiny. Thus the Weird Sisters are foretellers of Macbeth's fate. Three is a supernatural number. | **Great Chain of Being** | Elizabethans & Jacobeans believed in the divine right of the King, and the great chain of being. This is an order set by God, and Kings were near the top, therefore to kill a King is a sin against God. |
| **Hamartia** | | A personal error or fatal flaw in a character’s personality. | **THEMES** | | **Genre – Tragedy** | Tragedy because most characters die. Tragic hero has a flaw. Wheel of Fortune means tragic hero rises to the ‘top’ before a dramatic fall. |
| **Peripeteia** | | A sudden reversal or change in circumstances. | **Ambition** – we are shown how ambition and desire for power for power’s sake, leads to tyranny and greed. Unchecked ambition is shown to be a weakness. | |
| **Morality play** | | Popular in medieval Europe. Teaches the audience a lesson about good conduct and character. Characters can represent different sins. | **Witch Hunts** | Witches were believed to be true and were ‘hunted’ and killed. Ducking stools etc. were used to test for witches. King James I wrote a book about them. |
| **Guilt –** Shakespeare explores the effect of guilt on the human mind. | |
| **Soliloquy** | | Speaking one’s thoughts aloud and alone to reveal inner thoughts. | **Supernatural** – Shakespeare explores the influence to supernatural has over people’s lives. It is arguable whether Macbeth has any control at all or are his actions his predestined fate. | | **11th Century Scotland** | There was a real King Duncan and Macbeth. Assassinations were commonplace and Macbeth possibly did kill Duncan for the crown. However, the real Macbeth had a peaceful reign over Scotland. |
| **Anagnorisis** | | A moment in a play when a character makes a critical discovery e.g. Lady Macbeth’s anagnorisis occurs when the innocent Macduff children are killed. |
| **Appearance v Reality** – things aren’t always as they seem. Lady Macbeth encourages Macbeth to look and act differently. This is continued throughout and even though Lady Macbeth seems strong, she is not at the end. | |