



# MACBETH

*William Shakespeare*

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### **How to use this booklet:**

- Work through one page at a time and complete work on paper or on separate word document (there is no need to print this booklet)
- Use this link (or google online text and find the scene) to read the Scene named at the top of the page (translation is alongside text)  
<https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/macbeth/>
- Read the summary of the scene at the top the worksheet and work through questions.

### **When complete:**

- Save your work securely in a folder named "English" with all other work made during this time.
- Email your English teacher the Banquo assessment piece.

## Shakespeare and his plays

Task 1: Research the answers to complete the following to fill out the fact file below.

This video might help you --> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geev441vbMI>

### Shakespeare Factfile!

First Name:

Place of birth:

Date of birth:

Shakespeare's death:

Who was the King/Queen when he was writing (hint 2 answers):

His occupations before playwright:

His wife and children:

Why did he move to London?:

What he wrote:

Words he invented, why he invented them:

No of plays written:

First play performed:

Where Shakespeare's plays were/are most famously performed:

Any other interesting facts you found:

E	T	H	E	W	I	N	T	E	R	S	T	A	L	E	S	T	H	E
M	E	A	S	U	R	E	F	O	R	M	E	A	S	U	R	E	T	L
T	I	N	T	L	E	O	R	A	C	O	M	I	C	K	I	L	E	E
R	L	O	H	H	O	H	O	Y	M	B	F	I	X	Y	F	W	B	R
O	U	T	F	O	R	V	M	A	L	L	N	O	T	I	S	H	C	A
I	J	T	O	M	J	B	E	C	B	O	V	E	R	D	Q	O	A	B
L	D	I	E	A	E	G	E	S	R	B	Y	L	N	U	U	T	M	W
U	N	S	K	L	H	T	N	D	L	C	N	E	E	S	I	H	O	O
S	A	U	I	E	M	H	N	I	O	A	T	E	N	T	T	G	K	E
A	O	N	N	T	S	A	T	S	K	A	B	E	L	H	E	I	I	P
N	E	A	G	L	S	L	H	I	H	S	H	O	E	U	N	N	N	E
D	M	L	L	U	T	O	I	T	E	T	O	T	U	G	D	H	N	R
C	O	O	T	H	E	L	L	O	A	K	E	N	L	R	K	T	G	I
R	R	I	A	D	O	L	T	F	A	M	I	E	B	C	S	F	L	C
E	T	R	J	L	E	I	O	Z	P	R	A	L	I	Q	A	L	E	L
S	E	O	K	W	E	N	I	E	P	R	W	D	U	U	R	E	O	E
S	L	C	S	I	O	I	S	G	G	J	A	C	H	O	C	W	R	S
I	M	L	H	M	N	T	R	S	L	B	H	A	R	R	Y	T	W	I
D	L	T	I	G	D	U	J	U	L	I	U	S	C	A	E	S	A	R
A	R	T	A	P	O	E	L	C	D	N	A	Y	N	O	T	N	A	N

In this word search are 22 of Shakespeare's plays, how many can you find?

## A VISIT TO THE THEATRE IN SHAKESPEARE'S TIME

Imagine you are living in 1592, Shakespeare's time, and you are going to the theatre. You set off at lunchtime. All plays take place during the day because electricity has not been discovered yet. You may arrive at the theatre by boat across the River Thames, but you can save your ferry fare and walk across London Bridge. As you approach the Globe Theatre you pass the pits where bear baiting and cockfighting take place. A flag is flying from the roof which means that there is a performance today. People are crazy for the theatre, flocking to see the latest plays and ogle at their favourite actors. Anyone and everyone goes to the theatre in London. About 21,000 Londoners go to the theatre every week. That's over a tenth of the city's population – so it could be a fairly busy journey!

The play begins at 2 o'clock sharp and in order to hurry people along a loud shot is heard from a tower. Performances always take place at the same time on every day of the week except Sunday and during Lent. The theatres were also shut from October to April because the audience is not fully protected from the weather and people do not want to watch plays in the freezing cold.

You enter the building and see the stage in front of you. Two pillars on the stage support a roof for the actors. This is called the 'Heavens' and is painted with stars, a sun and a moon. At the back of the stage is the musicians' gallery. Musicians with trumpets, drums and other instruments play tunes and make sound effects. As you look around at the audience you will see lots of different types of people. At the top of the building there are galleries where merchants, sea-captains and clerks sit. They have paid between 2-6 pence for their seats. There are 'Gentlemen's Rooms' or boxes for rich and famous people and these cost a shilling. Finally the lower class citizens, or servants and apprentices, are standing in the yard or 'pit' in front of the stage and are known as 'groundlings.' They have only had to pay a penny. It's not always fun for the people standing in the 'pit' because sometimes a play can last four hours!

Once the trumpet has sounded and the audience is in their correct places the play will commence. The actors will have been rehearsing all morning and usually have to learn eight hundred words a day. They also have a double up parts, design sets, produce special effects, sell tickets and refreshments and prompt the actors on stage. By the end of the day they must be exhausted. Don't be surprised when the actors playing the female parts are not women. Instead young men dressed up as women play these parts. Women are not allowed to act in 1592 because it is considered shameless and unladylike.

The audience make a lot of noise during performances – more like spectators at a modern football match than a visit to see a play – cheering, hissing, clapping, booing and crying. You can tell if they do not like the performance as they will heckle and if they enjoy it they might start to sing along to any songs. Pedlars, or street sellers, go amongst the crowd selling food and drink to anyone who is hungry or who simply wants to throw something at the actors. It's a very smelly place. You may be able to detect the smell of sweaty, dirty bodies, food and also the open buckets that are used as toilets!

So sit down and enjoy the show, but remember to keep a lookout for pickpockets as they also have a good time at the theatre!

**Read through the questions below carefully. Write your answers in full sentences.**

1. Why did all the plays take place during daylight hours?
2. What time exactly did the performances begin?
3. In which two ways did people travel to the theatre?
4. What sort of activities might they pass on the way to the theatre?
5. What did it mean when the flag was flying on top of the theatre?
6. How many people visited the theatre in one week in London in 1592?
7. Why, do you think, stars, a sun and a moon were painted on the roof above the stage?
8. Who made the sound effects for the performance?
9. Who sat in the 'Gentlemen's Rooms' or boxes?
10. Name five jobs that an actor may have done for the theatre group.
11. Why weren't women allowed to act at this time?
12. What did pedlars sell during the performance?
13. What might the audience do during the performance?
14. Why did the theatre often smell unpleasant?
15. Who, other than the audience, enjoyed visiting the theatre and why?

Follow this link or google “virtual tour of the globe theatre” to see what it is like today.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3VGA6Fp3zI>

**King James I and the Gunpowder Plot**

Macbeth was written in and performed in 1606, three years after King James took to the throne and one year after the gun powder plot. Shakespeare wrote Macbeth to impress the King.

***Define the following key words before reading about James I***

Execution	
Protestant	
Catholic	
Witch hunts	
Treason	
Divine right	

King James was Scottish and not related to Elizabeth the first, this immediately made him unpopular. He was the first King to rule over Scotland, England and Wales as one united country. James believed in Divine Right and had many royal ancestors including Banquo (who Shakespeare includes in the cast of Macbeth for this reason). King James ruled over Scotland well but when it came to England he had many failings which made people plot to kill him.

James was a very educated man - a poet, scientist and art lover – he loved Literature and funded Shakespeare’s actors. He was highly religious and retranslated the bible to create the “King James Bible” which is the most common translation used today. He also loved hunting witches and wrote the book ‘Daemonologies’ He was personally terrified of witches. He believed that a group of witches had raised a storm to try and drown him. He was so scared, he got Parliament to pass a law promising death to anyone practicing witchcraft.

But he was often not a good king. He relied on his favourites, who were rewarded lavishly with money and land. He argued with his Parliament and advisors and often made choices no one agreed with. He was described at the time as the "wisest fool in Christendom". He imposed taxes on Catholics for not attending the Church of England (Protestant) masses and tried to outlaw Catholicism which made him very unpopular. On the 5<sup>th</sup> November (what has now become known as bonfire night) a group of Catholics waited with gun powder in the cellars of Parliament to try and kill the King. They were caught and publicly executed which is why we celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> November to this day, as the rhyme goes:

“Remember, remember, the fifth of November,  
 Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
 I see no reason why gunpowder treason  
 Should ever be forgot.”

Like with the witch trials he conducted, King James made their execution as public as possible to try and stop people from opposing him again and send a message to not try and kill him.

***Complete the table using the information given.***

Positive qualities and actions of King James	Negative qualities and actions of King James


### The Witches

*Why did people believe in witches?*

We live in a world that is full of natural disasters, poverty, crop failures, droughts, death, freak weather, illnesses and disease. Just watch the news one evening and there will probably be a news story covering one (or all) of those areas. In this respect, our world isn't that different to that of Shakespeare's time. However, we now live in a world that is technologically advanced. For example, we have satellite systems that tell us when a hurricane is on the way, or when a volcano is going to erupt. We have vets and doctors who can diagnose and remedy illnesses and diseases that we or our pets may have. In Shakespeare's time, people did not have the knowledge, understanding and technology that we do today. Therefore, when something went wrong, they tried to explain it in other ways. To us, their ideas may seem ridiculous and absurd, but to them, it made sense. In Shakespeare's time, people believed in witches and often blamed their own misfortunes on witches and witchcraft. Basically, anything bad that happened could (or would) be blamed on witches.

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



Research task:

- Find 3 famous witches in Literature write a short description for each.

- Make a list of factors that caused women to be accused of being a witch
- Research what happens in a witch hunt/ witch purge and explain what a witch trial is.
- What are people's views on witchcraft today and why?

### Act One, Scene One

Three witches are speaking against a background of a ferocious storm. A battle is in progress. The storm is more than theatrical spectacle; like the storm described by Lennox (Act II Scene 3), it summons up visions of chaos, disorder and sheer frightening power. The theme of evil, of a power unleashed on Scotland and centred on Macbeth, runs throughout. They arrange to meet Macbeth when the fight is over.

**Keywords:**

Greymalkin – cat

Hurlyburley – hustle and bustle (business)

**Fill in the blanks:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ are present from the start of the \_\_\_\_\_ to highlight how \_\_\_\_\_ and powerful they are. The weather at the beginning of the scene reflects the \_\_\_\_\_ in the air literally like \_\_\_\_\_ and it promises to plunge everything into \_\_\_\_\_. The last few words of the scene sum up the play, “Fair is \_\_\_\_\_ and foul is fair”! In this world good and bad things have become \_\_\_\_\_ and as an audience we are not sure what to \_\_\_\_\_ or the people we can \_\_\_\_\_.

**believe    trust    tension    evil    play    witches    electricity    foul    darkness    confused**

1. What is the weather like? What kind of mood does this set? What technique is this?
2. How do the witches speak? (hint – see 3) What is the effect of this?
3. Find two riddles spoken by the witches. Explain the effect of them. Why do they speak in riddles?
4. So far, how important do you think that they are going to be to the plot (the story)? Who do they want to meet? Where do they plan to meet him?
5. How do you think the Shakespearean audience would have reacted to this scene?

**CHALLENGE:**

Choose a quote to analyse below in a PEE style for the question:

How does Shakespeare make the witches seem scary in Act one, Scene one?

On YouTube find “Act 1 Scene 1 of Macbeth - 1971 2006 and 2010” which is 5 minutes 27 seconds (or follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clG8ha2D26g&t=1s>)

After watching:

- 1) Write a short description of each clip including key details the film maker has used to make the opening tense and scary for the audience.
- 2) Explain which opening you found most effective and explain why.

## Act One, Scene Two

In this scene we hear about the war from an injured captain. He tells us how Macbeth and Banquo have fought and turned the tide of the war so that King Duncan and his army are winning. The King is pleased with this news and grants Macbeth a new title.

For **brave** Macbeth (**well he deserves that name**),  
Disdaining fortune, with his **brandished steel**,  
**Which smoked with bloody execution**,  
**Like valour's minion**, **carved** out his passage,  
Till he faced the slave;  
And **ne'er shook hands**, **nor bade farewell to him**,  
Till **he unseamed him from the nave to the chops**,  
And **fixed his head upon our battlements**.

### What impression do you get of Macbeth?

Look at the red words for guidance and a start has been made for you below.  
Make at least 5 different points.

Remember you can look up any words that you do not know the meaning of or find a translation of this scene online.

I get the impression that Macbeth is a good fighter because...

Another impression I get is....

### Keywords:

**Thane** – Scottish Lord.

Questions:

- 1) Find 2 quotes that show that the King is pleased with this news.
- 2) Why is Macbeth compared to a “lion” and an “eagle”?
- 3) Analyse this metaphor about Macbeth's sword:  
“Which smoked with bloody execution”



### Act One, Scene Three

The first words Macbeth says in the play remind the audience of the ambiguous, confused nature of the drama. The day is “foul” because of the stormy weather yet “fair” because of the great victory of Duncan’s forces. The good and bad are equally balanced but from this moment on ‘evil’ is going to predominate the play and the character of Macbeth.

Macbeth speaks his thoughts out loud to the audience in this scene – this is called a soliloquy. This soliloquy begins the process by which we see his degeneration as a character.

The three witches tell each other what they have been doing and plan to do. Macbeth and Banquo meet them by chance. They predict that Macbeth will be Thane of Cawdor then King. Banquo will never be a king himself but will be father to a line of kings. Soon afterwards Ross arrives to tell Macbeth that the present Cawdor is under sentence of death and that King Duncan has given his title to Macbeth. Macbeth thinks about what fate has told him.

#### **Circle whether the following statements are ‘True’ or ‘False’:**

1. The witches cannot hurt the sailor’s wife because she is a good woman. T/F
2. Witches were thought to be able to control the elements. T/F
3. Macbeth’s father was called Sinel. T/F
4. Banquo believes the witches may be an hallucination. T/F
5. Ross announces that Macbeth is the new Thane of Fife. T/F
6. Macbeth feels the most difficult part of being King has already been achieved. T/F
7. Macbeth is not sure if he has to do anything to make the witches’ prophecies come true. T/F
8. Macbeth promises to speak to Banquo about what has happened at a later date. T/F

#### **Collect quotes to show that Macbeth feels:**

- Curious
- Excited
- Horrified
- Scared

This supernatural soliciting  
Cannot be ill: cannot be good. If ill,  
Why hath it given me the earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:  
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion  
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,  
Against the use of nature? Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings:  
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,  
Shakes so my single state of man...

### Questions:

1. What does the second witch say that she has been doing? What kind of job is this?
2. The first witch is annoyed because a woman would not give her chestnuts. How does she say that she is going to get her revenge?
3. What animal does the first witch say she is going to disguise herself as in order to board the sailor's ship? Generally, how do people feel about this kind of animal?
4. What deformity will the animal have? What does this tell us about her powers?
5. The first witch describes what she is going to do to the sailor. She plans a brutal and horrific revenge. Look at the chart on the next page. It contains a list of comments, quotes and explanations but they are all jumbled up.  
Match these up.

Once you are sure that you have them in the correct order, and that you have matched the correct comment, quote and explanation, write a paragraph explaining what the first witch says she is going to do to the sailor.

COMMENT	QUOTE	EXPLANATION
Finally, she determines to throw his life into chaos and confusion.	'Sleep shall neither night nor day Hang upon his penthouse lid.'	Again, we notice the parallels to fate of Macbeth who increasingly fears everything and everyone around him. He trusts no-one, not even his wife - 'partner in greatness'.
The second spell she casts on him is that of a life of sleepless nights.	'I will drain him dry as hay.'	This acts as a precursor to the fate of Macbeth, who feels that he has murdered sleep.
Next she says that his life will be full of fear and horror.	'Though his bark cannot be lost, Yet it shall be tempest-tossed.'	The first witch seems to appreciate that her powers are limited. She realises that his 'bark cannot be lost'. Again, this suggests the fate of Macbeth whose life as king does become chaotic.
Firstly, she uses a simile to describe what she is going to do to him.	'He shall live a man forbid.'	This simile suggests that he is going to be bled to death.

**CHALLENGE:** In Shakespeare's time people believed that witches caused illness. What other powers were they believed to have? Do Shakespeare's witches live up to the ideas that people had of them? (Hint - think about the actions, personalities, speech and powers of the witches.)

### Act One, Scene Four

Duncan finds out that the old Thane of Cawdor has been executed. He mentions, ironically, that it is sometimes hard to know the person you can trust just by the look of their face. This theme of appearance and reality is reinforced by the audience's view of Macbeth, outwardly professing his loyalty but inwardly plotting. Duncan, much to Macbeth's annoyance, announces that Malcolm will be his heir. Immediately Macbeth seeks to kill him and take the throne.

**Define these terms:**

- Ambiguity
- Soliloquy

**Complete this summary of the significance of the scene using words from the box below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ is strongly expressed in \_\_\_\_\_ words that people are not always what they \_\_\_\_\_ and Macbeth then enters. \_\_\_\_\_ is made Duncan's heir and Macbeth knows that Malcolm will be an \_\_\_\_\_ if he wants to gain the throne. Macbeth's murderous thoughts become \_\_\_\_\_. He calls on \_\_\_\_\_ to hide what he must do because it is too wicked for \_\_\_\_\_. Darkness, \_\_\_\_\_ the murder of the king and all these thoughts \_\_\_\_\_ Macbeth as he leaves the \_\_\_\_\_.

Duncan's obstacle darkness Malcolm daylight  
obsess stage seem stronger Ambiguity

<b>Who said? Circle the character.</b>	
1. "Is execution done on Cawdor?"	Duncan/Banquo/Macbeth
2. "There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face."	Duncan/Banquo/Macbeth
3. "There if I grow the harvest is your own."	Duncan/Banquo/Macbeth
4. "The Prince of Cumberland! There is a step On which I must fall down or else o'erlap."	Duncan/Banquo/Macbeth
5. "Stars hide your fires! Let not light see my black and deep desires."	Duncan/Banquo/Macbeth

**CHALLENGE:**

The stars are symbolic for Macbeth's ambition and darkness symbolic of evil. Explain why Shakespeare has used these metaphors and what this quote shows about how Macbeth is feeling.

# The Role of Women

## Patriarchal Society

Elizabethan society was patriarchal, meaning that men were considered to be the leaders and women their inferiors. Women were regarded as "the weaker sex", not just in terms of physical strength, but emotionally too. It was believed that women always needed someone to look after them. If they were married, their husband was expected to look after them. If they were single, then their father, brother or another male relative was expected to take care of them.

## Housewives and Mothers

Even though there had been an unmarried woman on the throne in Elizabethan England, the roles of women in society were very limited. There were very clear expectations of men and women, and in general men were expected to be the breadwinners and women to be housewives and mothers. On average, a woman gave birth to a child every two years, but as a lot of babies and children died from sickness, families were not always large. Childbearing was considered a great honour to women, as children were seen as blessings from God.

## Professional Women

Women were not allowed to enter the professions i.e law, medicine, politics, but they could work in domestic service as cooks, maids, etc. Women were also allowed to write works of literature, providing the subject was suitable for women: mainly translations or religious works. Women were not allowed to act on the public stage or write for the public stage. Acting was considered dishonourable for women. In Shakespeare's plays, the roles of women were often played by young boys.

## Marriage

A man was considered to be the head of a marriage, and he had the legal right to chastise his wife. However, it is important to understand what this "headship" meant. It did not mean, as is often supposed, that the husband was able to command his wife to do anything he pleased. He was expected to take care of her, make sure she had everything she needed, and most importantly to love her and be a good father to any children they had. If a husband felt the need to chastise his wife, then he was not allowed to be cruel or inflict bodily harm. If he did abuse his wife, then he could be prosecuted or prevented from living with her. There was no divorce: marriage generally lasted as long as the couple both lived.

## Sum up each heading in two sentences:

### Patriarchal Society

—  
—  
—

### Housewives and Mothers

—  
—  
—

### Professional Women

—  
—  
—

## Marriage

### Act One, Scene Five

Using your knowledge from the previous page and having read the scene answer the following questions:

1. How will the audience at the time expect Lady Macbeth to behave?
2. "Sex" is another word for gender.  
Why do you think Lady Macbeth says "unsex me here" what does she mean by this?
3. Who is more eager to follow the witches prophecy and kill the king, Lady Macbeth or Macbeth? Justify your answer.
4. Who is supposed to be the stronger of the pair at the time, Macbeth or Lady Macbeth? Who do you think is the most powerful in their relationship? Justify your answer.
5. At the time, what did people think of loud/rude/non-conventional women? What were they accused of being and how were they treated?
6. What words or quotes are used here that link to witchcraft and the supernatural?

#### **Come you spirits**

That tend on mortal thoughts, **unsex me here;**  
And **fill me, from the crown to the toes, topfull**  
**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,  
Whether in your sightless substances  
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**

#### **What impression do you get of Lady Macbeth?**

Look at the red words for guidance and a start has been made for you below.  
Make at least 5 different points.

Remember you can look up any words that you do not know the meaning of or find a translation of this scene online.

I get the impression that Lady Macbeth is evil because...

Another impression I get is....

## Act One, Scene Five

### **Fill in the blanks of the summary using words from the box below:**

Shakespeare uses the plot device of having Lady Macbeth reading a letter from her husband. This tells of the \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies. She fears her husband is too full of the \_\_\_\_\_ of human \_\_\_\_\_. She decides he must murder \_\_\_\_\_. She speaks the second of her great \_\_\_\_\_. She invokes the spirits of evil to help her get rid of all \_\_\_\_\_ so that she can help kill Duncan.

The impression we have of Lady Macbeth is of a woman of power who tries to live without \_\_\_\_\_. This is another example of \_\_\_\_\_. Lady Macbeth wants to be a \_\_\_\_\_. In \_\_\_\_\_ she discovers she has a conscience and this causes her to become the pathetic lunatic of Act V Scene I.

milk soliloquies conscience monster ambiguity goodness reality Duncan witches' kindness

### **Explain these following key phrases by linking explanations to quotations:**

“Your face my thane is a book, where men may read strange matters.”

“look like innocent flower but be the serpent under’t.”

“To alter favour is to fear.”

“fill me, from the crown to the toe top full of direst cruelty.”

“Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark. To cry, ‘Hold, hold!’”

Lady Macbeth worries that the look on her husband’s face may lead to his innermost thoughts being discovered.

Lady Macbeth wants evil spirits to fill her with wickedness so she can kill Duncan.

It is always a sign of fear when the look in your face changes.

If the murder is done at night perhaps heaven will not see, in the darkness, the evil deed.

Look innocent as a flower but be prepared to be like a snake.

## Act One, Scene Six

**Fill in the blanks of the summary:**

\_\_\_\_\_ is at \_\_\_\_\_ castle. Continuing with the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ it appears \_\_\_\_\_ but in reality it will be \_\_\_\_\_. The ambiguity is further \_\_\_\_\_ through Lady Macbeth's \_\_\_\_\_. She appears to be the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ in the way she welcomes Duncan while in \_\_\_\_\_ she is welcoming him to his \_\_\_\_\_.

ambiguity hell explored attitude reality Duncan Macbeth's death heavenly hostess

## Act One, Scene Seven

Looking at Macbeth's behaviour in this scene the audience is moved to pity, even though he is planning evil. His words express doubt and there is talk of disaster. His feelings are raw and the audience begins to understand how much he is suffering. Lady Macbeth's role in this scene is that of the manipulator and tormentor. She tells Macbeth of a 'foolproof' plan. The 'certainty' of the plan makes Macbeth confident as he believes he can fulfil his destiny by putting his wife's plan into action.

**Match the explanations to the quotes:**

"If it were done when t'is done then't were well." (Macbeth)

"Might be the be-all and the end all." (Macbeth)

"I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition." (Macbeth)

"We will proceed no further in this business.  
He hath honoured me of late." (Macbeth)

"Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would'  
like the poor cat i' the adage?" (Lady Macbeth)

"But screw your courage to the sticking-place  
And we'll not fail." (Lady Macbeth)

I have nothing to make me do things except pure ambition.

You say I don't dare do this murder just like a cat trying to steal fish from a pond – but unwilling to get a paw wet.

If the murder were completely finished when we do it, then it would be a good thing if it were done quickly.

If only this were a thing that existed on its own but it leads to other things happening.

We will not murder him as he has been good to me recently.

You must keep your reserve and not lose your way.

**Find quotes from this scene to prove the following:**

Macbeth doesn't want to kill the King	Lady Macbeth wants to kill the King	Macbeth wants to kill the king

A student having read this scene said “Macbeth does not want to kill King Duncan” to what extent do you agree?

- Consider what he says and how he feels
- Consider what he does and how the scene ends
- Consider what Lady Macbeth says to him and how this changes what he says
- Use quotes to prove your opinion
- **CHALLENGE: try to agree and disagree.**

*Here are some sentence starters to help you get started:*

I agree to a large extent that Macbeth doesn't want to kill the king because...

I agree that Macbeth does not want to kill the King because...

I disagree, I think Macbeth wanted to kill the King because...

*If you are stuck you may like to use this PEE- style layout to help you:*

Personal opinion

Evidence

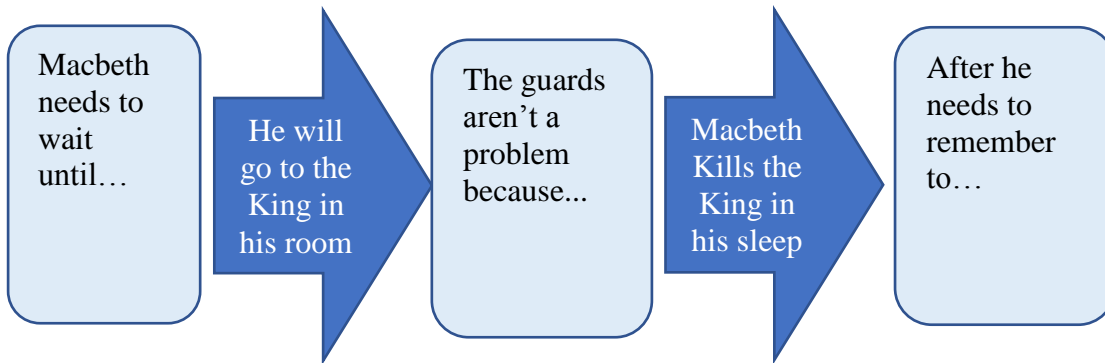
Argue how it proves your opinion is correct

Choice of language/word the writer has used



## CHECKPOINT

Explain the plan to kill the King in the following boxes.



Give as many words as you can to describe the characters below:



## Act Two, Scene One

Banquo and Macbeth talk in this scene and both are highly suspicious of each other. How could the weird sisters' prophecies come true unless the king dies? Macbeth is left alone. He has decided to kill Duncan but this has not brought him peace. In one of the most famous scenes in English literature, he imagines a dagger pointing the way to where Duncan sleeps. His world is dark and threatening and silent. This seems to be a time for false and wicked dreams. As he talks of these things they seem to surround him. When a bell rings it seems to be a death bell (knell) for Duncan.

**In this extract Macbeth starts to see the dagger.  
How does Shakespeare create tension and suspense in these words?**

“Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation”

### **How does Shakespeare create tension and suspense in these words?**

Comment on technique and effect for the following quotations

- “Is this a dagger which I see before me...?”
- “Come , let me clutch thee.”
- “Art thou not... sensible to feeling as to sight?”
- “fatal vision”
- “dagger of the mind, a false creation”

### Task two:

Pick out the images of ‘horror’ in this section and choose two to explain why Shakespeare has included these at this point of the play.

Now o’er the one halfworld  
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse  
The curtained sleep. Now witchcraft celebrates  
Pale Hecate’s offerings, and wither murder,  
Alarumed by his sentinel, the wolf,  
Whose howl’s his watch, thus with his stealthy pace.  
With Tarquin’s ravishing strides, towards his design  
Moves like a ghost.

## Act Two, Scene Two

Lady Macbeth enters and her pretence of being thoroughly evil is giving way. She believes she could herself have killed Duncan when she prepared the murder. However, in his sleep he so reminded her of her father that she realised she couldn't have done it. Her sense of pity was stronger than her cruelty. She, who was so ready to ignore her conscience and commit murder herself finds she cannot do so. For all her brave and brutal speeches she could not do the murder. Yet when Macbeth comes from the murder scene he is full of remorse, the man of action paralysed by the horror of what he has done! Lady Macbeth maintains her strength of character, scolds Macbeth, returns the daggers to the murder scene and makes the bodyguards look guilty.

<b>Decide whether these statements are true or false:</b>		
1. Macbeth believed Duncan looked like his father.	T/F	
2. Lady Macbeth congratulates Macbeth on killing Duncan.		T/F
3. Macbeth forgets to leave the daggers in Duncan's chamber.	T/F	
4. We see the moment Macbeth kills Duncan.		T/F
5. Banquo is listening to the couple as they talk.	T/F	
6. Lady Macbeth is more in control than Macbeth after the murders.	T/F	

Answer the following in full sentences giving reasons for your answers.

1. Who feels guilt about killing the King? How can you tell?
2. Who is more in charge Macbeth or Lady Macbeth?
3. "Will all Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?" What does Macbeth mean when he says this?
4. Who do you think has the stronger character and why?
5. Why can Macbeth not say Amen or sleep now? Why do you think this was included?
6. What do you think about the character of Macbeth after reading this part of the play?
7. What do you think about the character of Lady Macbeth after reading this part of the play?

## Act Two, Scene Three

The next scene is an attempt by Shakespeare to give the audience time to recover before the tension is increased to an unbearable degree again. A gatekeeper, still drunk from a party the night before, goes slowly to answer the knocking at the gate of the castle. Macduff and Lennox, two of Duncan's advisers, come to see the king because of his request to wake him early. Duncan's body is discovered. The alarm bell is rung. Malcolm and Donalbain are told of their father's death. Macbeth admits to slaughtering the king's bodyguards in his anger when seeing them covered in the blood of the king. When the questioning becomes intense and to gain time for recovery, Lady Macbeth pretends to faint. They dress properly and meet in the hall of the castle. Donalbain and Malcolm, fearing for their lives, run away. Left on their own Duncan's sons realise fingers will be pointed at them as heirs. They decide to flee as they can trust no-one, claiming there are "daggers in men's smiles".

### **Look again at Lennox's speech in Act II Scene III.**

"The night has been unruly: where we lay,  
Our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say,  
Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of death,  
And prophesying with accents terrible  
Of dire combustion and confused events  
New hatch'd to the woeful time: the obscure bird  
Clamour'd the livelong night: some say, the earth  
Was feverous and did shake."

### **Name four signs of the death of Duncan as shown by the strange events in the passage.**

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

## Act Two, Scene Four

This short scene develops the points raised by Lennox's speech. A conversation between Ross and an old man, they describe the unnatural weather and the unnatural death of the king. Macduff confirms the flight of Duncan's sons and that Macbeth has gone to Scone to be crowned. He significantly does not attend the coronation, but returns to his home in Fife.

### **Explain in your own words:**

"Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,  
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,  
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp."

### **And:**

"A falcon, towering in her pride of place  
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd."

Think about what it shows about the country after the King's death and what atmosphere it creates.

**CHALLENGE:** can you link it back to an earlier point in the play?

## CHECKPOINT

Explain the significance of all of these pictures in the play so far.



## Act Three, Scene One

Banquo is suspicious of the way in which Macbeth gained the throne as his soliloquy reveals. Macbeth, remembering the witches' prophesy, knows that Banquo is a threat to his sovereignty. Surprisingly for the audience, because we had no knowledge that Macbeth had already hired assassins, we see that he has already planned Banquo and Fleance's murders. Macbeth talks rudely to the murderers and tries to convince them that it is in their interest to kill Banquo.

The murderers are told that the assassinations are to be done that night, making clear Macbeth's continuous state of nervous panic. Macbeth is triumphant in what he is sure will be his secure hold on the throne.

**Fill in the blanks of this summary:**

Two unhappy soldiers are waiting to see \_\_\_\_\_. He has already told them what he wants them to do. He pretends that \_\_\_\_\_ has long been their secret \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their bad fortune. He wants them to murder Banquo and his son \_\_\_\_\_. He wants to kill Banquo because he is famous for his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore distrusts Macbeth. Moreover, the \_\_\_\_\_ have predicted Banquo's, not Macbeth's \_\_\_\_\_, will be kings so Macbeth feels \_\_\_\_\_ at this news.

Banquo cause nobility Macbeth loyalty witches enemy resentful children Fleance

**Think about the events in this scene. Rearrange the following adjectives to describe how each character appears in this scene:**

<b>Macbeth</b>	<b>Banquo</b>	<b>Fleance</b>
suspicious	loyal	noble
innocent	resentful	cruel
harmless	wicked	nervous
straightforward	sly	manipulative

### How does Macbeth talk to the murderers?

“Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men,  
As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,  
Shoughs, water-rugs and demi-wolves, are clept  
All by the name of dogs.”

Why does he liken them to dogs?

How is he trying to make them feel?

What is he trying to get them to do?

## Act Three Scene Two

Lady Macbeth is in a state of nervous dread. She is discovering what Macbeth already knows – that conscience returns to plague those who do evil. Where is this woman who earlier said “A little water clears us of this deed”? She now declares it would be better to be dead than to live as she does now, “in doubtful joy”. However, Lady Macbeth manages to keep her own doubts hidden and, knowing Macbeth is full of the same feelings of guilt, supports him then abuses him telling him there is no way to change things: “What’s done is done”. Macbeth reminds her of the dangers still remaining in the shape of Banquo.

The images of restlessness which will wear them both down and finally break Lady Macbeth are in this scene. There is almost a sense of regret or envy in Macbeth’s words about Duncan’s death when he claims that “nothing can touch him further”.

Lady Macbeth tells her husband to be cheerful at the banquet and ambiguously she appears both as loving wife and supporter of the actions of her husband.

The audience begins to see Lady Macbeth’s power dwindle as Macbeth becomes more independent and strong. He tells her to appear happy and this hypocrisy makes him admit the torment in his own mind (shown as “Scorpions”).

**Look at this extract from Macbeth’s speech to his wife and answer the questions that follow it:**

“We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it: (1)  
 She'll close and be herself, whilst our poor malice  
 Remains in danger of her former tooth.  
 But let the frame of things disjoint, both the  
 worlds suffer,  
 Ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep  
 In the affliction of these terrible dreams  
 That shake us nightly: better be with the dead,  
Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,  
Than on the torture of the mind to lie  
In restless ecstasy (2). Duncan is in his grave;  
 After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;  
Treason has done his worst (3): nor steel, nor poison,  
Malice domestic, foreign levy (4), nothing,  
Can touch him further. (5)

**Look at the numbered parts of the speech and decide whether the following 5 statements are true or false:**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Although Duncan is dead there are still forces opposing Macbeth.  | T/F |
| 2. Perhaps it is better to be dead like the people we have murdered than to live this life of unhappiness and dread. | T/F |
| 3. It is a good thing for a subject to murder his king.  | T/F |
| 4. Malice domestic, foreign levy, ill will in his own country, a foreign army enforced on us...                      | T/F |
| 5. Now Duncan is dead he is at peace.  | T/F |

**What does Macbeth mean when he says “O, full of scorpions is my mind” what does this suggest about his thoughts and his mental state?**

### Act Three, Scene Three and Four

Scene three the murderers kill Banquo and his son Fleance runs off. Scene four contrasts the wild murder and moves to a celebration, a feast. A murderer enters to tell Macbeth that Banquo is dead but Fleance has escaped. Now Macbeth's life will be one dreadful, living hell. Guilt and discovery will live with him forever – with no prospect of a happy old age.

Macbeth's imagination makes him see his absent guest Banquo in front of his eyes as a ghost even though he knows he is dead. Lady Macbeth, strong willed for the last time in the play, covers up his rantings by saying he is having a fit and it will be made worse if anyone approaches him. The feast, representing Macbeth's rule in Scotland, is ruined by disorder and chaos.

Macbeth is left muttering that "murder will out". He turns to his wife and is told it is not quite dawn – even the time is not clear and the distinction between night and day is uncertain.

In his growing paranoia Macbeth believes that Macduff is never where he wants him to be and determines to find him. He has established a spy network.

Macbeth's overwhelming superstition comes to the fore in this scene. He makes the decision to go and seek out the witches again and get them to foretell the future. He is not worried about the potential evil – he makes reference to the "lines of blood" he has already caused to be shed and is happy to continue to lose.

<b>Link the quotes with the correct commentary:</b>
"But now I am cabined, cribbed confined, bound in to saucy doubts and fears." (Macbeth)
"O proper stuff! This is the very painting of your fear." (Lady Macbeth)
"It will have blood, they say, blood will have blood..." (Macbeth)
"I am in blood Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er." (Macbeth)
Rubbish! This is nothing but what your imagination has made you scared of.
Now I feel enclosed in a small space, with doubts flooding through my mind.
People say bloody deeds must have blood in return.
If I carry on (like a man going through a river of blood) it would be as difficult to go back as to go over to the other side.



### Act Three, Scene Five

The witches intervene again in Macbeth's destiny. Hecate, the queen of the witches, is very angry with the three weird sisters because they have not asked permission for what they are doing to Macbeth. They try to placate her by asking her to be present when they next meet him. The witches intend to make Macbeth restless by removing his reasonable fear, thus ensuring his damnation.

**Explain the following by completing the commentary:**

“He shall spurn fate, scorn death and bear  
His hopes ‘bove wisdom, grace and fear;  
And you all know, security  
Is mortals’ chiefest enemy.”

He will \_\_\_\_\_ in spite of \_\_\_\_\_, honour and \_\_\_\_\_ and have a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ where there is no \_\_\_\_\_ to feel \_\_\_\_\_.

fear hopeful cause remain safety safe wisdom

### Act Three, Scene Six

This is one of the most difficult scenes to follow because of the language used. The moral of the play here is that under tyrants no-one feels safe enough to openly discuss their thoughts; they are all guarded in what they say and the loyalties they show.

Lennox reveals that Scotland is in a state of desperation, that Malcolm has gone to England and is getting the support of Edward to raise an army and that Macduff has refused to be in attendance on Macbeth. Lennox warns that he should be very careful.

The lord offers a view of what should happen if Macbeth is replaced. **Explain (in the box below), with reference to this speech:**

“...we may again  
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights,  
Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives,  
Do faithful homage and receive free honours:  
All which we pine for now...”

This means

## CHECKPOINT: BANQUO TASK

Copy out the bold key moments and answer the questions in bullet points. Try to include at least two bullet points per key moment.

- 1) **\_Who is Banquo? What is our initial impression of him?**
- 2) **Duncan describes him as ‘worthy’**– What does this comment from the king show?
- 3) **‘The earth has bubbles...and these are of them.’** – How does Banquo react to the witches?
- 4) **‘To win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray us in deepest consequence.’** – Why is Banquo fearful of the witches? How does this differ to Macbeth’s reaction?
- 5) **‘Look how our partner’s rapt.’** – What is Banquo the first to notice about Macbeth?
- 6) **‘At your kind’st leisure.’** – How does Banquo react to Macbeth’s request to speak about the witches?
- 7) **‘But still keep my bosom franchised and allegiance clear.’** – Why does Banquo say this to Macbeth? What does it show?
- 8) **(aside) ‘I fear thou played’st most foully for ’t... But hush, no more.’** – When Banquo says this to the audience, what does this prove?
- 9) **‘May they not be my oracles as well? But hush, no more.’** – What does this quote show? How is Banquo different than Macbeth in terms of the witches?
- 10) **Why does Macbeth order the murder of Banquo and his son, Fleance? What does this reveal about Macbeth?**
- 11) **‘Your highness’ ‘My lord’** – How does Banquo speak to Macbeth? What does this show?
- 12) **Macbeth: ‘Quit my sight!’ ‘Let the earth hide thee!’** – Why does Shakespeare include Banquo’s ghost at the Macbeth’s banquet?
- 13) **Lady Macbeth: ‘Banquo’s buried. He cannot come out of his grave.’** – Why does Lady Macbeth say this shortly before her suicide?
- 14) **Overall, what does Banquo represent and symbolise? (moral compass, fatal flaw = too trustworthy, kind)**

## **BANQUO ASSESSMENT**

**Answer the following question. Your assessment should be *at least* one page long:**

**Write about Banquo and how he is presented in *Macbeth***

**Use the following the guide (and your notes from the previous activity) to help**

**First paragraph:** Who is Banquo? What are our initial impressions of him? What is his role in the play?

**Main part of essay:** Choose five of Banquo's key moments / quotes and explain what we learn about him in these moments. '*The quote, 'quote' shows...*' Write a paragraph per key moment.

**Conclusion:** What was Banquo's flaw / weakness? What do you think Shakespeare wanted us to learn through Banquo?

### Act Four, Scene One

This is the last scene involving the witches. A tense evil atmosphere is created by chanting the gruesome ingredients of a spell they are brewing. They call up three apparitions:

The first warns Macbeth to beware Macduff.

The second tells Macbeth that none of woman born shall harm him.

The third tells Macbeth he has nothing to fear until Birnam Wood moves to Dunsinane.

This makes Macbeth feel invulnerable. He wants to know more about Banquo's children and is shown a vision of his former friend's descendants wearing crowns. Shakespeare knew Banquo was believed to be related to James I, the king he wrote Macbeth for. He is suggesting that James I's descendants will go on forever. Macbeth believes he has destroyed himself, damned his soul for nothing. Lennox appears and tells Macbeth that Macduff has gone to England.

Hecate has promised she will send Macbeth insane. He will lose all self-control, all sense of proportion, of right and wrong. Macbeth, on hearing about Macduff, declares he will do the first thing that occurs to him:

"...From this moment

The very firstlings of my heart shall be

The firstlings of my hand."

He decides to kill Lady Macduff and all of her family.

Macbeth has become a monster; the first murder he accomplished with great difficulty, the second by employing murderers but here he has sunk to the level of a homicidal maniac – he exterminates everyone associated with Macduff.

#### From the following quotations explain the witches' predictions:

"Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff."

"The power of man, for none of woman born  
Shall harm Macbeth."

"Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until  
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill  
Shall come against him."

#### How do you think Macbeth feels after finding this out? How do you predict it will make him act?

### Act Four, Scene Two

This scene opens with the first victims of Macbeth's total insanity, Lady Macduff and her son. This scene establishes the tenderness between mother and son, something Lady Macbeth rejected and Macbeth is about to destroy. This clearly illustrates the inhumanity of Macbeth the tyrant.

The scene ends with the little boy being stabbed and Lady Macduff being chased by the murderers.

#### **Complete the blanks in the summary:**

The scene opens at \_\_\_\_\_ castle in \_\_\_\_\_. Ross tries to convince Lady Macduff that her husband's flight to \_\_\_\_\_ was a good action. \_\_\_\_\_ leaves and then a \_\_\_\_\_ arrives to tell them their lives are in \_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately they have nowhere to \_\_\_\_\_. When \_\_\_\_\_ enter the \_\_\_\_\_ fear the worst and they are all \_\_\_\_\_.

England Ross go Fife messenger danger  
murderers audience killed Macduff

### Act Four, Scene Three

The action takes place in England. Shakespeare develops Malcolm's character as a noble person, worthy of eventually becoming rightful King. From Act II Scene III we have discovered he has a wisdom about the ways of men and that quality makes him a good judge of character.

After verbal wordplay and close questioning he realises he has a strong friend and ally in Macduff, whose integrity and goodness are made apparent. The contrasts in character between the evil Macbeth and the English King are made clear.

Ross brings news that all of Macduff's family have been slaughtered. Macduff is urged on to revenge by the politically astute Malcolm. He declares he will have his revenge on Macbeth, and he vows he will meet him in single combat – which is just what Malcolm wanted.

#### **Circle the correct character. Who said:**

“Let not my jealousies be your dishonours,  
But mine own safeties.”

Malcolm/Macduff/Macbeth

“Bleed, Bleed poor country!  
Great tyranny lay thou thy basis sure,  
Fair goodness dare not cheek thee!”

Malcolm/Macduff/Macbeth

“Fit to govern?  
No, not to live – a nation miserable!”

Malcolm/Macduff/Macbeth

“Now we’ll together and the chance of goodness  
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are  
You silent?”

Malcolm/Macduff/Macbeth

### **CHECKPOINT**

A theme in a text is an idea that appears throughout a text. Macbeth has many different themes (some of these such as “blood”, “supernatural/witches” “darkness” you looked at in a previous checkpoint. You will be asked to analyse themes across a text in your GCSE.

The biggest theme throughout the play is AMBITION.

Write a definition of ambition below:

Explain each of these character’s ambitions. Include:

- **What their ambition is**
- **What they do to achieve this ambition**
- **Whether their ambition is good or bad**
- **What drives them/ encourages them to achieve this ambition**

#### **1. Macbeth**

#### **2. Lady Macbeth**

#### **3. Witches**

#### **4. Banquo**

#### **5. King Duncan**

#### **6. Macduff**

**CHALLENGE:** Another big theme in the play is GUILT.  
Write a definition of a guilt below:

Create a mindmap or list of moments of guilt in the play. Use the following prompts to guide you

- **Characters who feel guilt**
- **Character who don't feel guilt (but maybe should)**
- **How is 'blood' used to show guilt**
- **Quotes which show guilt**
- **Divine right and why this adds to guilt**

### **Act Five, Scene One**

This scene shows the tragic ruin of Lady Macbeth. The doctor and her gentlewomen watch as she goes through the actions she has done for months, writing letters, sleepwalking. She has not had any sleep or rest since the murder of Duncan.

When Lady Macbeth enters it is one of the great dramatic moments of the play. The audience feels great pity for this woman because they realise she is not totally evil: She is a reminder of what may happen if the darker side of human nature is encouraged to the neglect of all good qualities. She is a reminder, as is Macbeth, that we are all capable of evil but if we submit to the temptation our suffering will be as great.

Lady Macbeth constantly rubs her hands as if to wash away the blood, the outward sign of the sin of murder. There is heavy irony here as had told Macbeth "A little water clears us of this deed". He knows then this is not true and she will never remove "the spot" she sees which indicates her implication in Duncan's death and is a metaphor for her guilt.

Her speech ranges back and forth in an illogical, crazed fashion. The doctor links Lady Macbeth's tortured speech with the rumours he has heard and says she needs a priest, a confessor, rather than a doctor.

**Choose the most appropriate adjectives to describe Lady Macbeth from the list and place in the 'Appropriate' or 'Inappropriate' boxes give reason for each choice:**

Clear-headed polite, disturbed, confused, guilt ridden, dangerous, mean, distracted, evil, wicked, traumatized, damaged

Appropriate	Inappropriate

**What do the following quotes suggest about how Lady Macbeth feels and her character at this point in the play?**

“Here’s the smell of blood still – all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.”

“Out, damned spot! Out I say!”

“Yet who would have thought the old man to have so much blood in him.”

**CHALLENGE:** if you made a guilt mindmap, add these to your mindmap, does this change what you previously thought of Lady Macbeth?

**Act Five, Scene Two**

This is a play about evil and good. This play shows how evil can lead to its own destruction. Malcolm’s army, supported by the English, are camped nearby Dunsinane, Macbeth’s heavily fortified castle. The two forces are to meet at Birnam, which reminds the audience of the witches’ prophecies.

**What do Menteith’s words say about how people feel about fighting Macbeth? Explain:**

“The English power is near, led on by Malcolm,  
His uncle Siward and the good Macduff:  
Revenge burn in them; for their dear causes  
Would to the bleeding and the grim alarm  
Excite the mortified man.”



**Act Five, Scene Three**

Macbeth appears for the first time since Act IV. Then he met the witches and lost all reason. We have heard terrible, terrible things about his tyrannical reign.

Macbeth believes he cannot be slain because of the witches’ prophecies. He has put his trust in evil and will suffer accordingly. He does know the battle to come will be a long and deciding fight. He knows too that he has lived long enough, he has aged rapidly but has none of the comforts of old age to look forward to, such as “honour, love, obedience, troops of friends”.

He is suspicious of all those around him. We see what pathetic state his “vaulting ambition” has led him to. Now, at the end of the play, we see what was an heroic war machine going out once more onto the field of battle.

The doctor enters to tell Macbeth that his wife is not physically but mentally ill. Macbeth realises just as there is no medicine for a “mind diseased” so it is for him. There is no army which will get rid of



the English army. The young English soldiers will be the doctors who will cure Scotland of its disease, Macbeth.

**Fill in the blanks of this summary:**

Inside the castle Macbeth prepares for the siege. He admits to \_\_\_\_\_ his heart is \_\_\_\_\_. The doctor tells him he cannot help \_\_\_\_\_ as it is her \_\_\_\_\_ which is diseased not her \_\_\_\_\_. Macbeth still bases his \_\_\_\_\_ on the witches' \_\_\_\_\_. Macbeth \_\_\_\_\_ he does not mind that his soldiers are fleeing to the\_\_\_\_\_.

English heavy mind prophecies hopes Seyton Lady Macbeth pretends army body

**Act Five, Scene Four**

In this short scene Malcolm shows his practicality when he tells his young soldiers to cut a bough from the trees and use it as camouflage in advancing to the castle. Of course, this looks as if the wood is moving, fulfilling the witches' words. The forces of revenge are on the march. No good will come of Macbeth's reliance on the witches' words.

**Do you agree/disagree with these statements?**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Macbeth should never have listened to the witches' prophecies.         | Agree/Disagree |
| 2. Malcolm is a clever general.   | Agree/Disagree |
| 3. The witches cannot make things happen but they can foresee the future. | Agree/Disagree |
| 4. The prediction was never intended as something good for Macbeth.       | Agree/Disagree |
| 5. The true forces of good are now against Macbeth.                       | Agree/Disagree |

**Act Five, Scene Five**

Macbeth is becoming desperate. He feels total isolation with the news of his wife's death. His soliloquy here shows his feelings about life's futility(pointlessness). The end comes fast – his troops desert him and his wife is dead. A messenger comes and says that Birnam Wood is seen to move. Finally Macbeth realises the powers of evil do not wish him well. At the end of his speech Macbeth is torn between violent action or total indifference as to whether he lives or dies.

**Pick out 2 quotes which show the futility of life and explain them:**

“She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
 To the last syllable of recorded time,  
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
 The way to dusty death. 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.”

**Fill in the blanks of this summary of Macbeth’s speech:**

His soliloquy here is the most \_\_\_\_\_ and moving of his expressions of life’s \_\_\_\_\_. Day succeeds petty day, our \_\_\_\_\_ means nothing and points only to our \_\_\_\_\_. The speech continues with powerful \_\_\_\_\_: Life is a \_\_\_\_\_ that will gutter out, an \_\_\_\_\_ who has his time on \_\_\_\_\_ and then when he leaves it, is heard no \_\_\_\_\_.

experience imagery candle death move powerful futility actor stage idiot’s fury nothing

**Act Five, Scenes Six, Seven and Eight**

The battle is a series of brief and noisy skirmishes. Macbeth believes he is invincible – after he kills an English nobleman, young Siward, the audience wonders if this is true. Macbeth’s castle falls. Some of Macbeth’s men fight for him, some against. Macduff seeks out Macbeth and tells him he is “Not of woman born” but rather was “from his mother’s womb untimely ripp’d”. They fight on and Macbeth is slain. Macduff cuts off Macbeth’s head in an echo of the early scenes of the play. The wheel of fortune has come full circle. Macbeth the traitor has in his turn, just like the Thane of Cawdor, been beheaded. The play ends with Malcolm thanking the nobles and inviting them to see him crowned at Scone.

<b>Identify the speakers of these words from Act V Scenes VI, VII, VIII and IX.</b>	
“They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly.”	Macbeth/Macduff/Siward
“The devil himself could not pronounce a title More hateful to mine ear.”	Macbeth/Macduff/Siward
“Turn hell-hound, turn.”	Macbeth/Macduff/Siward
“I will not yield, to kiss the ground before young Malcolm’s feet...”	Macbeth/Macduff/Siward
“...this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen...”	Malcolm/Macduff/Siward

**Final scene:**

Malcolm gives a speech to celebrate their victory over the tyrant Macbeth and establishes himself as the rightful king.

ANALYSE THIS QUOTE – what does it suggest about Macbeth and his wife?  
“this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen”

**What do you think about the character of Macbeth? Was it his fault? Did he deserve to die?**  
**Can he be called the hero of this story?**