

Independent Study Knowledge Organiser

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

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Keywords	Key quotes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Soliloquy Dramatic irony Hamartia Hubris Ambition Ruthless Cyclical Rhyme Tragic hero Existential 	<p>Beginning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lady Macbeth: "Come, you spirits... Unsex me here" (Act 1.5) Macbeth: Stars, hide your fires/Let not light see my black and deep desires (Act 1.4) Macbeth: "Is this a dagger I see before me? The handle towards my hand" (Act 2.1) Lady Macbeth: "My hands are of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white" (Act 2.2) <p>Middle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Macbeth: "To be thus is nothing but to be safely thus" (Act 3.1) Macbeth: "Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife" (Act 3.2) Macbeth: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck (Act 3.2) Macbeth: "Blood will have blood" (Act 3.4) <p>End</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Malcolm: "This tyrant whose sole name blisters our tongue was once thought honest" (Act 4.3) Lady Macbeth: "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand" (Act 5.1) Macbeth: Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player (Act 5.5) Macbeth: I bear a charmed life (Act 5.8) 		
<p>Plot tracking</p> <p>Act 1 M and Banquo meet witches, Cawdor executed, Lady M reads letter, taunts M, Duncan arrives</p> <p>Act 2 M kills Duncan, Malcolm flees, M crowned</p> <p>Act 3 Banquo suspects M, murder of B, Fleance escapes, M haunted by B's ghost at a banquet</p> <p>Act 4 Witches show M future kings – sons of Banquo, Macduff's family murdered, Malcolm says he is dishonest to test Macduff's loyalty</p> <p>Act 5 Lady M sleepwalks, dies, Macduff kills M, Malcolm restored as King</p>	<p>Characters</p> <p>Macbeth Ambitious and ruthless</p> <p>Lady Macbeth Defies expectations, strong and ambitious, but goes mad</p> <p>Witches Supernatural beings, prophesy; could represent conscience</p> <p>Banquo M's friend, sons prophesied to rule, killed and returns as ghost</p> <p>Duncan Good king, praises M at start; murdered in Act 2</p> <p>Macduff Wife and children killed; kills M; born by caesarian</p> <p>Malcolm Heir to throne, good man, finally crowned</p> <p>Fleance Banquo's son, represents innocence and justice</p>	<p>Context / Intertextuality</p> <p>Political, philosophical and historical context: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/english/macbeth/background/revision/1/</p> <p>Modern tragic heroes:</p> <p>Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook) Anakin Skywalker (Star Wars) Severus Snape (Harry Potter) Boromir (Lord of the Rings) Jack Dawson (Titanic)</p> <p>Others here: http://www.goliath.com/movies/the-12-most-tragic-character-deaths-in-cinema/</p>	<p>Themes</p> <p>Fate and free will Is the action pre decided?</p> <p>Ambition The Macbeths' ambition drives the play</p> <p>Appearance and reality People and events are not always as they seem</p> <p>Supernatural Witches; ghosts; prophecies</p> <p>Violence Many battles throughout the play</p> <p>Nature Surely, some events could have played out naturally...</p> <p>Light and dark Everything murderous happens under the blanket of darkness</p> <p>Children Did Lady Macbeth and Macbeth lose a child?</p> <p>Sleep and Dreams What's appearance and what's reality?</p>

Key word tasks

1. Learn the definition of each word.
2. Learn how to spell each word.
3. Use each word accurately in a sentence.
4. Write 5 sentences about the literacy topic, using these words.

Key quotes

Memorise your answers

Beginning:

1. How does the quote show Lady M is unnatural?
2. How does the quote show Macbeth plotting his crime?
3. How does the quote show hallucination?
4. How does the quote show that Lady M is braver?

Middle:

1. How does the quote show Macbeth is paranoid?
2. How does the quote show Macbeth is guilty?
3. How does the quote show that Macbeth is hiding information?
4. How does the quote show a cyclical nature of events?

End:

1. How does the quote show that Macbeth is a tragic hero?
2. How does the quote show Lady M's guilt and anxiety?
3. How does the quote show Macbeth's existential crisis?
4. How does the quote show a betrayal of prophesy?

Plot tracking

Memorise your answers

1. Write a 5 line paragraph, in your own words, summarising each act.
2. Prepare a 5 box BRIEF story board of the events from the whole play. You will need to be able to produce this from memory in ten minutes.
3. Watch this clip: <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/m/macbeth/play-summary> and memorise the three main things 'you should know about this play'
4. In your opinion, what's the most important Act in Macbeth? Why?
5. If you could write an additional Act or Scene, what would be included and why?

Characters

Memorise your answers

1. Write a 5 line paragraph about three characters.
2. Pick three characters and explain how they are linked and how they influence one another's fate / destiny.

Context / intertextuality

Memorise your answers

1. Visit the context website and research three facts about the historical context of Macbeth.
2. Visit the context website and research three facts about the philosophical context of Macbeth.
3. Visit the context website and research three facts about the political context of Macbeth.
4. Research the modern 'tragic heroes' website. How are they tragic heroes and how are they similar or different to Macbeth? Explain.
5. Come up with three more tragic heroes of your own and explain how they meet the criteria.

Themes

Memorise your answers

Fate and free will

Is the action pre decided? Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.

Ambition

The Macbeths' ambition drives the play. Agree or disagree? Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.

Appearance and reality

People and events are not always as they seem. Agree or disagree? Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.

Nature

Surely, some events could have played out naturally... Agree or disagree? Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.

Children

Did Lady Macbeth and Macbeth lose a child? Find evidence for or against. Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.

Sleep and Dreams

What's appearance and what's reality? Find evidence. Write a 5 line paragraph in answer to this question.