

SUBJECT: English Literature

UNIT: Macbeth



Context	<p>King James I - James I had been James VI of Scotland before he succeeded to the English throne in 1603. In focusing on Macbeth, a figure from Scottish history, Shakespeare paid homage to his king's Scottish lineage. Additionally, the witches' prophecy that Banquo will found a line of kings is a clear nod to James' family's claim to have descended from the historical Banquo.</p> <p>Witchcraft and Daemonologie - King James was convinced that a group of witches were plotting to bring about his death and played an active role in the North Berwick witch trials. He later published <i>Daemonologie</i> in 1597. Charges of witchcraft continued in Great Britain, with Scotland in particular experiencing a number of witch hunt crazes throughout the 17th century.</p>		
	Content	Plot	Vocabulary
		<p>Act 1 Macbeth and Banquo meet witches, previous Cawdor executed, Lady M reads letter then manipulates husband, Duncan arrives</p> <p>Act 2 Macbeth contemplates murder, sees dagger, Kills Duncan, Malcolm flees, Macbeth crowned.</p> <p>Act 3 Banquo suspects Macbeth, Banquo murdered but Fleance escapes, Banquo's ghost appears at banquet</p> <p>Act 4 Macbeth goes back to witches, Macduff's family murdered while Macduff is in England, Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty</p> <p>Act 5 Lady M sleepwalks then commits suicide, Macbeth prepares for battle, Macduff kills Macbeth, Malcolm becomes king</p>	<p>Macbeth: ambitious, courageous, deceitful, impulsive, ruthless, treasonous, tyrannical, zealous</p> <p>Lady Macbeth: cunning, dominant, emasculating, malevolent, mutinous, powerful, scheming, vulnerable</p> <p>Banquo: devoted, intuitive, loyal, trustworthy, virtuous</p> <p>Duncan: benevolent, faithful, honest, naïve, sincere</p> <p>Macduff: devout, fervent, heroic, merciless, patriotic, unwavering</p> <p>Witches: corrupt, ignoble, manipulative, sinister, subversive</p> <p>The audience feel... Astonished Bewildered Disgusted Disquieted Distressed Nonplussed Perturbed Scandalised Surprised Unnerved Unsettled</p>
		Key quotes	Motifs Blood Sleep and dreams Light and dark Nature
	<p>Witches: Fair is foul and foul is fair (1.1)</p> <p>Macbeth: Stars, hide your fires/Let not light see my black and deep desires (1.4)</p> <p>Lady Macbeth: Unsex me here (1.5)</p> <p>Macbeth: Is this a dagger which I see before me? (2.1)</p> <p>Lady Macbeth: My hands are of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white (2.2)</p> <p>Macbeth: Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife (3.2)</p> <p>Macbeth: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck (3.2)</p> <p>Blood will have blood (3.4)</p> <p>Witch: By the pricking of my thumbs/something wicked this way comes (4.1)</p> <p>Malcolm: This tyrant whose sole name blisters our tongue was once thought honest (4.3)</p> <p>Lady Macbeth: All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand (5.1)</p> <p>Macbeth: Life's but a walking shadow (5.5)</p> <p>Macbeth: I bear a charmed life (5.8)</p>		
		Dramatic devices	Themes
		<p>Soliloquy – One character speaking to the audience</p> <p>Dramatic irony – Audience knows more than characters</p> <p>Hamartia – Fatal flaw which leads to tragic hero's downfall</p> <p>Hubris – Excessive pride</p> <p>Peripeteia – Sudden reversal of fortune</p>	<p>Fate and free will – 'If chance will have me king, why chance may crown me'</p> <p>Ambition – 'vaulting ambition'</p> <p>Appearance and reality – 'look like th' innocent flower, but be the serpent under't'</p> <p>Supernatural – 'double double toil and trouble'</p>