

MACBETH: COVER BOOKLET 1

Work your way through the activities in this booklet. Ensure your work is kept neat and tidy. If you are stuck on a particular activity or question, leave it and return to it once you have finished the rest. The following activities have been designed to help you retrieve knowledge from Act 1, Scenes 1-5 of *Macbeth*.

Name: _____



DO IT NOW TASK: SUMMARISE THE SCENES

Read the information below. Once you have finished, summarise what happens in Act 1, Scenes 1 to 5 of 'Macbeth' in no more than three bullet points.

On a bleak Scottish moorland, Macbeth and Banquo, two of King Duncan's generals, discover three strange women (witches). The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be promoted twice: to Thane of Cawdor (a rank of the aristocracy bestowed by grateful kings) and King of Scotland. Banquo's descendants will be kings, but Banquo isn't promised any kingdom himself. The generals want to hear more, but the "weird sisters" disappear.

Soon afterwards, King Duncan names Macbeth Thane of Cawdor as a reward for his success in the recent battles. The promotion seems to support the prophecy. The King then proposes to make a brief visit that night to Macbeth's castle at Inverness. Lady Macbeth receives news from her husband about the prophecy and his new title. She vows to help him become king by whatever means are necessary.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



ACTIVITY 1: ACT 1, SCENE 1 RETRIEVAL

Read the first scene of Macbeth below and answer the questions as annotations.

1. How does Shakespeare create an ominous tone and atmosphere at the beginning of the play?

3. What is the significance of the mention of a setting sun?

5. Who are Graymalkin and Paddock?

7. Where does Shakespeare include imagery of pollution and infection? Why does he include this imagery?

SCENE I. A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

I come, Graymalkin!

Second Witch

Paddock calls.

Third Witch

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Exeunt

2. What does the term 'hurlyburly' mean? What are the witches referring to here?

4. The witches plan to meet with Macbeth. What does this tell us about them?

6. Why do the witches speak in paradoxical couplets?

Discuss: What do you think is the most important line in the first scene and why? Answer in full sentences.

ACTIVITY 2: ACT 1, SCENE 2 RETRIEVAL

Read the Captain's speech in Act 1, Scene 2 and complete the activities.

Captain

Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave;
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

Consider the following 'big ideas'. Explain how each idea appears in the Captain's speech. One has been done for you.

Kingship: Duncan is presented as a weak king in this scene. The fact he has to ask the Captain what is happening in the battle shows how distanced he is from events. His weakness is also revealed by the fact Scotland is being invaded. He may be a kind, trusting man but this makes his kingship very fragile.



Power:



Violence:



Fate:



Loyalty:



ACTIVITY 3: ACT 1, SCENE 3 RETRIEVAL

Read the following extract from Act 1, Scene 3 of the play and complete the activities that follow. Use your own copies of the text to help you with the language if needed.

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO

How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand
me,

By each at once her chappy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

MACBETH

Speak, if you can: what are you?

First Witch

All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

Second Witch

All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

Third Witch

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

BANQUO

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear
Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner
You greet with present grace and great prediction
Of noble having and of royal hope,
That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not.
If you can look into the seeds of time,
And say which grain will grow and which will not,
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear
Your favours nor your hate.

First Witch

Hail!

Second Witch

Hail!

Third Witch

Hail!

First Witch

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

Second Witch

Not so happy, yet much happier.

Third Witch

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

First Witch

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

1. Explain what is happening in this scene on a **LITERAL** level. (*What is happening at this moment?*)

2. Explain what is happening in this scene on a **METAPHORICAL** level. (*What language can you pick out to discuss? What is the significance of the language Shakespeare uses?*)

3. Explain what is happening in this scene on a **SYMBOLIC** level. (*What is the wider significance of the extract? What can we link it to elsewhere in the play and why?*)

Extension: Highlight what you think is the most important line in this extract and explain your choice in this box.

ACTIVITY 4: ACT 1, SCENE 4 RETRIEVAL

Read the following extract from Act 1, Scene 4 of the play and complete the activities that follow. In this scene, Macbeth hears Duncan pronouncing Malcolm, Duncan's son, as the Prince of Cumberland.

If a character is speaking 'aside', what does this mean?

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What are the connotations of 'stars'?

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MACBETH
[Aside] The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see

Why does Macbeth call for darkness?

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Why does Macbeth not want his eye to see his actions?
Why does he wish to metaphorically/temporarily blind himself?

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What is Macbeth saying about his desires if they are 'black and deep'?

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Earlier in the scene, Duncan says 'But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine / On all deserving.' Macbeth now asks the stars to 'hide [their] fires.' What does this tell us?

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ACTIVITY 5: ACT 1, SCENE 5 RETRIEVAL

Read the following extract from Act 1, Scene 5 of the play and complete the activity that follows.

Annotation: Imagine you were given the following exam task - Explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this scene. Annotate the extract with ideas. What would you say? Remember, for Part A of the Shakespeare question, you are only being assessed on AO2 which is analysis of language and structure.

The following key words from our recent academic reading lesson may help you: duplicitous, secretive, parasitical, reprehensible, obscurity, imperatives, incantatory

In this scene, a messenger has just informed Lady Macbeth that Macbeth and Duncan are returning to the castle:

Lady Macbeth's use of imperatives here exposes how ruthless she can be, especially considering she is communing with the supernatural.

LADY MACBETH

The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. **Come**, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! **I 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,
Wherever 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,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Enter MACBETH

Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

MACBETH

My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH

O, never
Shall sun that morrow see!
Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
May read strange matters. To beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,
But be the serpent under't.

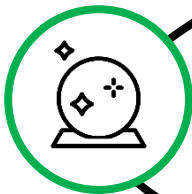
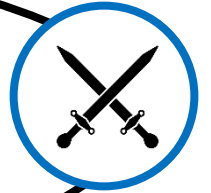
ACTIVITY 6: CONSIDERING STRUCTURE

Consider the timeline of events below. Complete the questions posed as annotations. Each question has been planned to help you think about why Shakespeare structures the play the way he has.



1.1: Why does Shakespeare open the play with a meeting between three witches? Consider the audience in your response.

1.2: Why do we hear of Macbeth's bravery before we meet him? Why is Shakespeare creating a certain image of Macbeth before his introduction?



1.3: Why is it important Macbeth is proclaimed the Thane of Cawdor so soon after the witches have given him his prophecies?

1.4: When Malcolm is proclaimed the Prince of Cumberland, Macbeth calls for darkness to hide his evil thoughts and deeds. Why is this scene placed so soon after the witches give Macbeth his prophecies?



1.5: Why is Lady Macbeth introduced at THIS moment in the play? Think of what comes before this moment and what comes after.

EXTENSION: WHAT ELSE?

1. *What else do you know about 'Macbeth' that this booklet didn't cover? Dump your remaining knowledge of the play and its context in the space below. You may present this how you like as long as it is clear and easy to follow.*

OR

2. *What is the most important scene out of the five you have revised today? Explain why in full sentences, using quotations in your response. Discuss Shakespeare's authorial intent in your answer and use the tier 2 vocabulary we have learnt in class.*