This is Macbeth in the Classroom:
Lesson Plans and Resources for Teachers
WORKSHEETS ONLY

WORKSHEETS FOR ACTIVITIES

In this packet are all the worksheets for the activities provided in This is Macbeth in the Classroom. If you do not have this booklet, please go to http://thisismacbeth.com/teacher-materials/, where you can download it for free.

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23. "Reflection" (DVD 30/Full Text Review)
Analyze and discuss the cast list of Macbeth with an eye towards relationships and social status. How have characters been grouped in this Dramatis Personae from 1899? Using a bookmark-sized piece of card stock, create a new "Character Bookmark," listing all of the characters in a format that helps you visualize the cast. You might group characters by family, by status, by nationality, etc, and might use lists, drawings, or other creative means to represent the cast of Macbeth.

Dramatis Personæ.

DUNCAN, King of Scotland.
MALCOLM, his sons.
DONALBAIN.
MACBETH, generals of the army.
BANQUO.
MACDUFF, noblemen of Scotland.
LENNOX.
ROSS.
MENTEITH.
ANGUS.
CAITHNESS.
FLEANCE, son to Banquo.
SIWARD, Earl of Northumberland, general of the English forces.
Young SIWARD, his son.
SEYTON, an officer attending on Macbeth.

Boy, son to Macduff.
An English Doctor.
A Scotch Doctor.
A Sergeant.
A Porter.
An old Man.
LADY MACBETH.
LADY MACDUFF.
Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

HECATE.
Three Witches.
Apparitions.
Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers, Attendants, and Messengers.

Scene: Scotland; England.

The following lines come from Act I of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Read each line aloud. What do you think the line means? Who do you imagine is speaking the line—a man or woman, someone old or young, powerful or weak, good or evil? Human or supernatural? To whom (or what) is he or she speaking? Write your ideas under each quote.

"Fair is foul, and foul is fair." (I,i 11)

"Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none: So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!" (I,iii 68-9)

"The earth hath bubbles as the water has, And these are of them. Whither are they vanish'd?" (I,iii 80-1)

"Thou art so far before That swiftest wing of recompense is slow To overtake thee; would thou hadst less deserv'd, That the proportion both of thanks and payment Might have been mine!" (I,iv 16-20)

"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,v 38-41)

"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." (I,v 61-4)
Reproduce the following words from Act One of *Macbeth* on a transparency. Have students guess meaning, first by the word alone, then by interpreting it in context. Have students create a "Weird Word Log" to keep track of unusual words. For each word, students may wish to write a definition or synonym and write and illustrate a sentence of their own that employs the word.

hurlyburly

SECOND WITCH: "When the hurlyburly's done, When the battle's lost and won." (I,i 3-4)

minion

SERGEANT: "For brave Macbeth—for well he deserves that name— Disdaining fortune, with his brandish’d steel, Which smok’d with bloody execution, Like valour’s minion carv’d out his passage Till he fac’d the slave…" (I,ii 16-20)

nave

SERGEANT: "...Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him, Til he unseam’d him from the nave to the chops, And fix’d his head upon our battlements." (I,ii 21-3).

deign

ROSS: "Nor would we deign him burial of his men Till he disbursed, at Saint Colme’s Inch, Ten thousand dollars to our general use." (I,ii 61-3)

corporal

MACBETH: "Into the air, and what seem’d corporal melted As breath into the wind." (I,iii 80-1)

wrack

ANGUS: "Whether he was combin’d With those of Norway, or did line the rebel With hidden help or vantage, or that with both He labour’d in his country’s wrack, I know not." (I,iii 112-5)
enkindle

BANQUO: "That, trusted home,
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,
Besides the Thane of Cawdor." (I,iii 121-3)

cleave

BANQUO: "New honours come upon him,
Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould
But with the aid of use." (I,iii 145-8)

plenteous

DUNCAN: "My plenteous joys
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow." (I,iv 33-5)

chastise

LADY MACBETH: "Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear,
And chastise with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round." (I,v 24-7)

compunctious

LADY MACBETH: "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!" (I,v 41-5)

pall (verb)

LADY MACBETH: "Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes..." (I,v 48-50)
4. MUSICALLY SPEAKING
(GENERAL ACTIVITY)

Audio Files of all songs are available at http://thisismacbeth.com/movie/songs/index.shtml

_Song Summary #1 (I,i and I,iv)_
Well Scotland is at war,
The heath is stained with blood and gore
And there's more and more and more,
And then Macbeth pulls out his sword!
And he walks up to Macdonwald,
And he cuts him nave to chops,
And he thinks he might be done then,
But the violence doesn't stop
Because Macdonwald's little war is enough of a reason
For the Thane of Cawdor to ally with Norwegians.
But Macbeth comes out the savior,
And he earns the king's favor,
And the King is pleased to make him the new Thane of Cawdor
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, you're such a big success.
The king thinks you're the best thing
Since they invented unsliced bread
But Macbeth, Macbeth, oh what will happen next?
I could try and take a guess, but I'll admit,
I haven't read the next part yet.

_Song Summary #2 (I,iii-iv)_
Well now, Macbeth and Banquo,
Were on their way home,
Talking 'bout the battle
(The day was fair and foul)
When out of the shadows,
Three ladies appear,
Dresses all in tatters
Acting really weird,
Saying weird things about becoming king
And Macbeth starts turning white
But Banquo shrugs,
Says they're probably on drugs,
And gives his friend some advice:
Oh, don't you ever let a woman mess with your mind,
You're a fine young up-start fella.
It's probably a trick, did you see those chicks?
They're witches, man, I tell ya.
It's not destiny, it's possibility
But Macbeth knows that's the thing.
Cause it's in his head, that if Duncan's dead, he might well be king.
(Ohh.)
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, you seem a bit distressed,
But the prophesy suggests
That you should go make Duncan dead.
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, how will you approach this test?
I could probably take a guess,
But instead I'll sit and watch what happens next.
**Song Summary #3 (I,viI-II,ii)**

It's decided, they're gonna kill the King.
Tonight is when they do the deed.
Frightened? Most definitely,
Divided—
Macbeth has second thoughts,
But his wife says now's the time to be tough.
You ain't no woman, man, so suck it up.
It's floating right in front of you, so come on grab the knife
And walk up to that bedroom and take the king's life.
And later you can thank me while you're lying awake at night.
Singing, that's no lady, she's my wife.
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, your wife's a bit intense.
She's so focused on success that she asked to be unsexed.
But Macbeth, Macbeth, you're prone to second guess,
And I know that all this death has got you vexed,
But try to get some rest.

**Song Summary #4 (II,iii-III,iv)**

Well you know it's going from fair to foul,
When a falcon gets killed by an owl.
And the days are dark,
And the winds howl
Across the Scottish moor.
And Macbeth's still feeling rotten,
Even though he's the King of Scotland
Because the whole thing has now gotten
To be something of a chore.
And his wife says, it's a party, man,
Sit back and drink some wine
The whole point of this king thing is to have a real good time
But Macbeth's just killed his friend
And he's seeing ghosts again.
And I just checked the page count,
And we're almost at the end.
Not much more to go!
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, Macduff could prove a threat,
And Fleance ain't dead yet and you are certain he'll be back,
But Macbeth, Macbeth, let's just take a big deep breath,
There's bound to be more death,
But let's relax and just take it step by step.

**Song Summary #5 (Conclusion)**

Well the play is over,
It's all said and done,
The battle is lost and won.
Fair is foul and foul is fair,
The whole play it's been up in the air.
Something might be right or it might be wrong,
It's all in the way you look at things.
At the end of the play, Malcolm is king,
Which you could argue he was supposed to be all along.
If you aim for the better, you might come out worse,
What seems like a blessing might be a curse.
And ambition might come at too high a cost.
And as you can see the penalty,
As happens in a lot of these tragedies
Is that everyone's lives were lost.
Well Duncan was killed while taking a nap,
The servants were killed so they'd take the rap.
Malcolm and his brother fled
To avoid their blood being royally bled
Macbeth had Banquo’s throat slit too
He was worried that the rest of the prophesy was true,
Because really what else is he supposed to do?
He started the thing, he's gotta see it through,
It's a downward spiral, that's the joke.
In an ocean of blood you start doing the backstroke,
You crossed the line, might as well go wild,
And kill Macduff's own wife and child.
You can lose your mind when you get in this deep,
This kind of thing happens with lack of sleep.
Lady Macbeth found herself so repulsive,
She apparently died an obsessive-compulsive
And Macbeth got himself killed by Macduff,
Which nobody was expecting,
But as it turns out the big secret was
Macduff’s mom had a C-section.
(Oh, Shakespeare!)
Oh Macbeth, Macbeth, it was such a tragic death,
Your wife, she would have wept,
If she hadn’t already killed herself.
But Macbeth, Macbeth, you’re my main man Macbeth,
You know of all the Scottish kings
That took the throne by questionable means,
I always thought you were the best!
But the play has gotta come to an end sometime,
And there's only so many words
I can think of that rhyme with Macbeth…
Macbeth.
Death?
Mos def.
Oh let's just roll the credits.
Review *Macbeth* I,ii and Macbeth and Banquo's in-studio conversation about the recent battle (DVD Chapter 7).

**UNSEAMING 101 (DVD 7):** Whip out your prop swords (empty wrapping paper tubes), put on your Scottish accents, and practice unseaming your classmates from nave to chops. After some swordplay, discuss the prevalence of violence in Macbeth’s world. How many men has Macbeth killed in his life? How much guilt do you think he feels about the enemies he has slain? Discuss how a world at war can be evoked on a theater stage, or in a film like *This is Macbeth.*

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*Macbeth, I,ii 1-67*

**DUNCAN**

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.  

**MALCOLM**

This is the sergeant  
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought  
'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it.  

**SERGEANT**

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 chops,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.  

**DUNCAN**

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!  

**SERGEANT**

As whence the sun 'gins his reflection  
Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break,  
So from that spring whence comfort seem'd to come  
Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:  
No sooner justice had with valour arm'd  
Compell'd these skipping kerns to trust their heels,  
But the Norweyan lord surveying vantage,  
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men  
Began a fresh assault.
DUNCAN
Dismay’d not this
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?
SERGEANT
Yes;
As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
If I say sooth, I must report they were
As cannons overcharged with double cracks, so they
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:
Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,
Or memorise another Golgotha,
I cannot tell.
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.
DUNCAN
So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;
They smack of honour both. Go get him surgeons.

Exit Sergeant, attended

Who comes here?

Enter ROSS

MALCOLM
The worthy thane of Ross.
LENNOX
What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look
That seems to speak things strange.
ROSS
God save the king!
DUNCAN
Whence camest thou, worthy thane?
ROSS
From Fife, great king;
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky
And fan our people cold. Norway himself,
With terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;
Till that Bellona’s bridegroom, lapp’d in proof,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm ’gainst arm.
Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,
The victory fell on us.
DUNCAN
Great happiness!
ROSS
That now
Sweno, the Norways’ king, craves composition:
Nor would we deign him burial of his men
Till he disbursed at Saint Colme’s inch
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.
DUNCAN
No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.
ROSS
I’ll see it done.
DUNCAN
What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.
Review the witches' scenes in Act One, provided below. Close-read Macbeth and Banquo's reactions to the witches to learn about how supernatural beings fit into Macbeth's world. Are sightings like this common? Are the witches treated with fear? With reverence? With disrespect? What is their purpose in this play? Do you think the witches stand to gain anything from giving Macbeth and Banquo these prophecies?

**WITCH CHAT:** The Weird Sisters are sitting around their bubbling cauldron of Shakespearean Stew, about to have a family dinner. Write and perform a 2 page script of their conversation as they prepare for Macbeth and Banquo's arrival. Are the witches bound to report something they've foreseen? Are they manipulating Macbeth? Are they angry because of some slight? Think critically about what might motivate the witches given what you know from the text.

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**Macbeth, I.i 1-12**

**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.

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**Macbeth I.iii 1-79**

**FIRST WITCH**
Where hast thou been, sister?

**SECOND WITCH**
Killing swine.

**THIRD WITCH**
Sister, where thou?

**FIRST WITCH**
A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,
And munch'd, and munch'd, and munch'd:--
'Give me,' quoth I:
'Aroint thee, witch!' the rump-fed ronyon cries.
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' the Tiger:
But in a sieve I'll thither sail

---

**Third Witches, hand in hand,**
**Posters of the sea and land,**
**Thus do go about, about:**
**Thrice to thine and thrice to mine**
**And thrice again, to make up nine.**

**Peace! the charm's wound up.**

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**Enter MACBETH and BANQUO**
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!

MACBETH
Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king
Stands not within the prospect of belief,
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence
You owe this strange intelligence? or why
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.
In studio, Ralph and Macbeth discuss the "good and ill" news Macbeth has heard from the witches: review what Macbeth says in the interview and in the text, provided below.

PROS AND CONS: Stealing away from Banquo in the forest, Macbeth takes out his Swine-skin notebook to sort through his feelings about the prophecy. Write Macbeth's Fair and Foul List of Pros and Cons for Killing Duncan based on Macbeth's musings in I,iii and what you know about Macbeth's world. Given the pros and cons, what action would you advise?

_Macbeth, I,iii 131-148_

**MACBETH**
This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,
Why hath it given me 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 that function
Is smother’d in surmise, and nothing is
But what is not.

**BANQUO**
Look, how our partner’s rapt.

**MACBETH**
[Aside] If chance will have me king,
why, chance may crown me,
Without my stir.

**BANQUO**
New horrors come upon him,
Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould
But with the aid of use.

**MACBETH**
[Aside] Come what come may,
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.
Macbeth calls Malcolm "a step on which I must fall down, or else o'er leap, for in my way it lies" (I,iv 48-50). Consider the power structure of Macbeth's Scotland. One section of text illuminating the power system is provided below; search the text for other passages that can help you understand Scotland's organization and hierarchy.

POWER STRUCTURE: In small groups, discuss what you know about the power structure in Macbeth's Scotland. After taking notes on the hierarchy, create either a 2-D or a 3-D representation of the tiers of Macbeth's world. Where is the King? Where are the Thanes? Where are the witches? Where are enemies—can you position them in such a way as to illustrate the threat they pose? If Malcolm is a "step" between Macbeth and the Kingship, where does Macbeth stand? Are there shortcuts to the top? Be creative, using found materials, drawings, suspended items, text-art, and/or other means to make the hierarchy tangible.

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**Macbeth, I,iv 35-50**

DUNCAN
Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter
The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must
Not unaccompanied invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deservers. From hence to Inverness,
And bind us further to you.

MACBETH
The rest is labour, which is not used for you:
I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

DUNCAN
My worthy Cawdor!

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.
9. LADY M'S DIARY (DVD 14; I,v 1-72)

Given what you know about Lady M's reactions to Macbeth's letter (see below) and the attitudes she has revealed in interviews with Ralph, compose Lady M's one page diary entry written one a week before Macbeth's letter arrives. Macbeth is away at war, and Lady Macbeth is home alone... Is Lady M frustrated that, as a woman, she can't fight in the war? Is she bored? Is she depressed? Is she weary of being a woman? Is she already plotting for her own or her husband's advancement? Be creative and have fun!

Macbeth, I,v 38-71

LADY MACBETH
'They met me in the day of success: and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-hailed me 'Thane of Cawdor;' by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time, with 'Hail, king that shalt be! This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.'
Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o' the milk of human kindness To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great; Art not without ambition, but without The illness should attend it: what thou wouldst highly, That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false, And yet wouldst wrongly win: thou'ldst have, great Glamis,

That which cries 'Thou must do, if thou have it;
And that which rather thou dost fear to do
Than wishest should be undone.' Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;
And chastise with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem
To have thee crown'd w'inthal.

Enter a Messenger
What is your tidings?
MESSENGER
The king comes here to-night.
LADY MACBETH

Thou’rt mad to say it:
Is not thy master with him? who, were’t so,
Would have inform’d for preparation.
MESSENGER
So please you, it is true: our thane is coming:
One of my fellows had the speed of him,
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.
LADY MACBETH
Give him tending;
He brings great news.
Exit Messenger
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! 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 blanketed 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.
**BIOPoEMS: Who are these people anyway?**

As a class, use dictionaries and thesauruses to generate vocabulary for Lady Macbeth and Macbeth (i.e., manipulative, impressionable, ambitious, cynical, etc). Craft a "bio-poem" for each character using the template below.

Line 1: Your character's name

Line 2: Four traits that describe your character

Line 3: Relative (parent, husband, child, etc) of ______

Line 4: Lover of ____, ____ , and ____ (3 things or people)

Line 5: Who feels _____, ____ , and ____ (3 emotions)

Line 6: Who needs _____, ____ , and ____ (3 items)

Line 7: Who fears _____, ____ , and ____ (3 items)

Line 8: Who gives _____, ____ , and ____ (3 items)

Line 9: Who would like to see _____, ____ , and ____ (3 items)

Line 10: Resident of ______

Line 11: Your character's name
Consider the themes of deception and self-deception in Macbeth. Review Ralph's interview with Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's desire that the" eye wink at the hand" (I,iv.52), and Lady Macbeth's urging of Macbeth to "look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under 't. Two key passages are provided for your reference below, but review the text for additional quotes.

"SERPENT UNDER 'T": Write a 1-2 page essay on the theme of deception and self-deception as interrelated ideas. Does lying to someone else require you to lie to yourself in some way? Do moral humans have to "turn a blind eye" on some part of themselves in order to kill or commit other crimes? How do your opinions on these topics affect how you feel about the Macbeths and their actions?

Passage 1:

Macbeth I,iv 50-3

MACBETH

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.

Passage 2:

Macbeth I,v 60-71

LADY MACBETH

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. He that's coming  
Must be provided for: and you shall put  
This night's great business into my dispatch;  
Which shall to all our nights and days to come  
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

MACBETH

We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH

Only look up clear;  
To alter favour ever is to fear:  
Leave all the rest to me.
Review Macbeth's "Is this a dagger" soliloquy. This speech is famous for the imagery it evokes, and the ambivalence of this imagery: is Macbeth really seeing a dagger, just as he has seen witches? Is he hallucinating? Should the audience see what he is seeing, or should we have to imagine it?

**STORYBOARD A SPEECH:** You are the director of a short-film illustrating Macbeth’s soliloquy. Create a "storyboard" to plan your shots. Draw 15-20 images that illustrate particular moods, words, or phrases from a section of text that interests you. For example, you might draw a close-up of Macbeth's eyes (“mine eyes” II,i.44), then a wide-shot of a group of fools laughing (“the fools o’ the other senses” (II,i.44), followed by an image of Macbeth’s face in which the eyes are "worth all the rest" (II,i.45)—i.e., an image in which Macbeth's face has been stripped of ears, mouth, and nose, and only eyes remain. Feel free to be creative, exploring extreme angles, alternate meanings, or unusual representations of the text.

**Macbeth II,i 33-64**

```
MACBETH
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,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one halfworld
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain’d sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd 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. Thou sure and firm
set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabout,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. While I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.
A bell rings

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.
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(continued)
Both the porter’s speech in II, iii, and Ross’s discussion with the old man, in II, iv, give us some insight into how commoners might have seen Macbeth, Malcom, and political life in Scotland.

**The Daily Scotsman:** Duncan's dead, Malcolm's off in England…what's a concerned citizen like you to do? Write an Editorial for the Daily Scotsman, of course! As a well-educated peasant living near Macbeth's castle, compose a 1 page Letter to the Editor of Scotland’s leading tapestry periodical. How have the recent changes-of-command affected your life? Are you pleased or displeased that Duncan's out and Macbeth's in? What are your concerns? The conversation between the Old Man and Ross provided below may provide some inspiration, but feel free to comment on the events from your invented character's unique perspective.
Macbeth is threatened by Banquo because of the prophecy that Banquo will father Kings. Is Lady Macbeth an undesirable mate because she hasn't produced heirs?

**PLAYING QUEEN:** Consider the childlessness of the Macbeths and Lady Macbeth's "unsexing" of herself. Could Macbeth have become King if Lady Macbeth hadn't unsexed herself? Can Macbeth ever be secure without knowing that he has heirs of his own? Was Macbeth's ascension predicated on the fact that Lady Macbeth will produce no heirs? Consider Macbeth's jealousy and fear of Banquo's children expressed in the passage below, then write a 1-2 page essay exploring the importance to a person in power of producing heirs. Pay particular attention on Lady Macbeth's role as a wife to a King.

__Macbeth III,i 48-71__

**MACBETH**

Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature  
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares;  
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,  
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,  
Mark Antony’s was by Caesar. He chid the sisters  
When first they put the name of king upon me,  
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like  
They hail’d him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrench’d with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If ’t be so,  
For Banquo’s issue have I filed my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder’d;  
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace  
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel  
Given to the common enemy of man,  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come fate into the list.  
And champion me to the utterance!
15. BANQUET TABLEAUX (DVD 24; III,iv 1-144)

Review the Banquet Scene, provided below.

TABLEAUX: Working in groups of 5 or 6, stage five or more "tableaux"—held poses—illustrating the banquet scene. You can use your body to represent Macbeth, the murderers, Banquo's ghost, other guests, the table, other inanimate objects...anything you wish to include in the tableau. Trace the arc of the entire scene with the tableaux. When is ghost apparent and not apparent to Macbeth? How can you make stronger, more physically dynamic choices to express characters' emotions?

*Macbeth III,iv 1-144*

**MACBETH**
You know your own degrees; sit down: at first
And last the hearty welcome.

**Lords**
Thanks to your majesty.

**MACBETH**
Ourself will mingle with society,
And play the humble host.
Our hostess keeps her state, but in best time
We will require her welcome.

**LADY MACBETH**
Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends;
For my heart speaks they are welcome.

*First Murderer appears at the door*

**MACBETH**
See, they encounter thee with their hearts' thanks.
Both sides are even: here I'll sit i' the midst:
Be large in mirth; anon we'll drink a measure
The table round.

*Approaching the door*

There's blood on thy face.

**First Murderer**
'Tis Banquo's then.

**MACBETH**
'Tis better thee without than he within.
Is he dispatch'd?

**First Murderer**
My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.

**MACBETH**
Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: yet he's good
That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,
Thou art the nonpareil.

**FIRST MURDERER**
Most royal sir,
Fleance is 'scaped.

**MACBETH**
Then comes my fit again: I had else been perfect,
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,
As broad and general as the casing air:

But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

**First Murderer**
Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;
The least a death to nature.

**MACBETH**
Thanks for that:
There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,
No teeth for the present. Get thee gone: to-morrow
We'll hear, ourselves, again.

*Exit Murderer*

**LADY MACBETH**
My royal lord,
You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold
That is not often vouch'd, while 'tis a-

**MACBETH**
'Tis given with welcome: to feed were best at home;
From thence the sauce to meat is ceremony;
Meeting were bare without it.

**MACBÉTH**
Sweet remembrancer!
Now, good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both!

**LENOX**
May't please your highness sit.

*The GHOST OF BANQUO enters, and sits in MACBETH's place*

**MACBETH**
Here had we now our country's honour roof'd,
Were the graced person of our Banquo present;
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness
Than pity for mischance!

**ROSS**
His absence, sir,
Lays blame upon his promise. Please't your highness
To grace us with your royal company.

**MACBETH**
The table's full.

**LENOX**
Here is a place reserved, sir.
MACBETH
Where?
LENNOX
Here, my good lord. What is’t that moves your highness?
MACBETH
Which of you have done this?
Lords
What, my good lord?
MACBETH
Thou canst not say I did it: never shake Thy gory locks at me.
ROSS
Gentlemen, rise: his highness is not well.
LADY MACBETH
Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus, And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep seat; The fit is momentary; upon a thought He will again be well: if much you note him, You shall offend him and extend his passion: Feed, and regard him not. Are you a man?
MACBETH
Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that Which might appal the devil.
LADY MACBETH
O proper stuff! This is the very painting of your fear: This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said, Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts, Impostors to true fear, would well become A woman’s story at a winter’s fire, Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself! Why do you make such faces? When all’s done, You look but on a stool.
MACBETH
Prithee, see there! behold! look! lo! how say you? Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too. If charnel-houses and our graves must send Those that we bury back, our monuments Shall be the maws of kites.
GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes
LADY MACBETH
What, quite unmann’d in folly?
MACBETH
If I stand here, I saw him.
LADY MACBETH
Fie, for shame!
MACBETH
Blood hath been shed ere now, i’ the olden time, Ere human statute purged the gentle weal; Ay, and since too, murders have been perform’d Too terrible for the ear: the times have been, That, when the brains were out, the man would die, And there an end; but now they rise again, With twenty mortal murders on their crowns, And push us from our stools: this is more strange Than such a murder is.
LADY MACBETH
My worthy lord, Your noble friends do lack you.
MACBETH
I do forget. Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends, I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing To those that know me. Come, love and health to all; Then I’ll sit down. Give me some wine; fill full. I drink to the general joy o’ the whole table, And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss; Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst, And all to all.
LORDS
Our duties, and the pledge.
Re-enter GHOST OF BANQUO
MACBETH
Avaunt! and quit my sight! let the earth hide thee! Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold; Thou hast no speculation in those eyes Which thou dost glare with!
LADY MACBETH
Think of this, good peers, But as a thing of custom: ’tis no other; Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.
MACBETH
What man dare, I dare: Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear, The arm’d rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger; Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves Shall never tremble: or be alive again, And dare me to the desert with thy sword; If trembling I inhabit then, protest me The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence!
GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes
Why, so: being gone, I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.
LADY MACBETH
You have displaced the mirth, broke the good meeting, With most admired disorder.
MACBETH
Can such things be, And overcome us like a summer’s cloud, Without our special wonder? You make me strange Even to the disposition that I owe, When now I think you can behold such sights, And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks, When mine is blanched with fear.
ROSS
What sights, my lord?
LADY MACBETH
I pray you, speak not; he grows worse and worse;
Question enrages him. At once, good night:
Stand not upon the order of your going,
But go at once.

LENNOX
Good night; and better health
Attend his majesty!

LADY MACBETH
A kind good night to all!

Exeunt all but MACBETH and LADY MACBETH

MACBETH
It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood:
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;
Augurs and understood relations have
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth
The secret’s t man of blood. What is the night?

LADY MACBETH
Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH
How say’st thou, that Macduff denies his person
At our great bidding?

LADY MACBETH
Did you send to him, sir?

MACBETH
I hear it by the way; but I will send:
There’s not a one of them but in his house
I keep a servant fee’d. I will to-morrow,
And betimes I will, to the weird sisters:
More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know,
By the worst means, the worst. For mine own good,
All causes shall give way: I am in blood
Stepp’d in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o’er:
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;
Which must be acted ere they may be scann’d.

LADY MACBETH
You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

MACBETH
Come, we’ll to sleep. My strange and self-abuse
Is the initiate fear that wants hard use:
We are yet but young in deed.
16. MACBETH TANGO (DVD 25; I,v; I,vii; II,ii; III,ii; III,iv)

In order to better understand Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, review key scenes of dialogue and investigate their relationship through dance.

MACBETH TANGO: (This activity is from the Folger Shakespeare Library.) Distribute the dialogue between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth from the following scenes—I,v; I,vii; II,ii; III,ii; III,iv—and have students pair off, discuss, and paraphrase a scene. Then, have the pairs prepare the scene as a dance. It may be helpful to have available CD players and a variety of CDs appropriate to different forms of dance (i.e., square dance, Latin dances, swing, ballroom, etc). Tell the students not to worry about adhering to the music; it is only an option. Have each pair perform the dance, without text or with only minimal paraphrased lines. Then, after everyone has performed, have the pairs perform the scene using the original language. Did the movement help uncover anything new about the relationship? Was subtext revealed? How did dancing the tango affect your performance?

Macbeth I,v 52-71

LADY 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!

Macbeth I,vii 28-82

MACBETH
How now! what news?
LADY MACBETH
He has almost supp’d: why have you left the chamber?
MACBETH
Hath he ask’d for me?
LADY MACBETH
Know you not he has?
MACBETH
We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour’d me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH
Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress’d yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem’st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting ‘I dare not’ wait upon ‘I would’,
Like the poor cat i’ the adage?
MACBETH
Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.
LADY MACBETH
What beast was’t, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fitness
now
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know
How tender ’tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck’d my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash’d the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.
MACBETH
If we should fail?
LADY MACBETH
We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
And we’ll not fail. When Duncan is asleep--
Whereto the rather shall his day’s hard journey
Soundly invite him--
His two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassail so convince
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep
Their drenched natures lie as in a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
The unguarded Duncan? what not put upon
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?
MACBETH
Bring forth men-children only;
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males. Will it not be received,
When we have mark’d with blood those sleepy two
Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,
That they have done’t?
LADY MACBETH
Who dares receive it other,
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
Upon his death?
MACBETH
I am settled, and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth
know

Macbeth II,ii 1-74

LADY MACBETH
That which hath made them drunk hath made me
bold;
What hath quench’d them hath given me fire.
Hark! Peace!
It was the owl that shriek’d, the fatal bellman,
Which gives the stern’st good-night. He is about it:
The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg’d
their possets,
That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live or die.
MACBETH
LADY MACBETH
Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,
And ’tis not done. The attempt and not the deed
Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;
He could not miss ’em. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done’t.
Enter MACBETH
My husband!
MACBETH
I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?
LADY MACBETH
I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.
Did not you speak?
MACBETH
When?
LADY MACBETH
Now.
MACBETH
As I descended?
LADY MACBETH
Ay.
MACBETH
Hark!
Who lies i’ the second chamber?
LADY MACBETH
Donalbain.
MACBETH
This is a sorry sight.
Looking on his hands

LADY MACBETH
A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.
MACBETH
There’s one did laugh in’s sleep, and one cried
’Murder!’
That they did wake each other: I stood and heard
them:
But they did say their prayers, and address’d them
Again to sleep.
LADY MACBETH
There are two lodged together.
MACBETH
One cried ’God bless us!’ and ’Amen’ the other;
As they had seen me with these hangman’s hands.
Listening their fear, I could not say 'Amen,'
When they did say 'God bless us!'

LADY MACBETH
Consider it not so deeply.

MACBETH
But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen'?
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'
Stuck in my throat.

LADY MACBETH
These deeds must not be thought
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

MACBETH
Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murder sleep', the innocent sleep,
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast,—

LADY MACBETH
What do you mean?

MACBETH
Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the house:
'Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore
Cawdor
Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more.'

LADY MACBETH
Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,
You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.

MACBETH
I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again I dare not.

LADY MACBETH
Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead

Macbeth III,ii 8-56

LADY MACBETH
How now, my lord! why do you keep alone,
Of sorriest fancies your companions making,
Using those thoughts which should indeed have
died
With them they think on? Things without all
remedy
Should be without regard: what's done is done.

MACBETH
We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it:
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

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;
For it must seem their guilt.

Exit. Knocking within

MACBETH
Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine
eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

Re-enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH
My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white.

Knocking within
I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it, then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended.

Knocking within
Hark! more knocking.
Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH
To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

Knocking within
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou
couldst!
MACBETH
So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:
Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;
Present him eminence, both with eye and
tongue:
Unsafe the while, that we
Must lave our honours in these flattering
streams,
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.
LADY MACBETH
You must leave this.
MACBETH
O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know’st that Banquo, and his Fleance,
lives.
LADY MACBETH
But in them nature’s copy’s not eterné.
MACBETH
There’s comfort yet; they are assailable;
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown
His cloister’d flight, ere to black Hecate’s
summons
Hath rung night’s yawning peal, there shall be
done
A deed of dreadful note.
LADY MACBETH
What’s to be done?
MACBETH
Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,
Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeing night,
Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;
And with thy bloody and invisible hand
Cancel and tear to pieces that great bond
Which keeps me pale! Light thickens; and the
crow
Makes wing to the rooky wood:
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;
While night’s black agents to their preys do
rouse.
Thou marvell’st at my words: but hold thee still;
Things bad begun make strong themselves by
ill.
So, prithee, go with me.

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Macbeth III, iv 53-144

LADY MACBETH
Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep
seat;
The fit is momentary; upon a thought
He will again be well: if much you note him,
You shall offend him and extend his passion:
Feed, and regard him not. Are you a man?
MACBETH
Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.
LADY MACBETH
O proper stuff!
This is the very painting of your fear:
This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts,
Impostors to true fear, would well become
A woman’s story at a winter’s fire,
Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all’s done,
You look but on a stool.
MACBETH
Prithee, see there! behold! look! lo!
how say you?
Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too.
If charnel-houses and our graves must send
Those that we bury back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites.
GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes
LADY MACBETH
What, quite unmann’d in folly?
MACBETH
If I stand here, I saw him.
LADY MACBETH
Fie, for shame!
MACBETH
Blood hath been shed ere now, i’ the olden time,
Ere human statute purged the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform’d
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would
die,
And there an end; but now they rise again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: this is more strange
Than such a murder is.
LADY MACBETH
My worthy lord,
Your noble friends do lack you.
MACBETH
I do forget.
Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends,
I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing
To those that know me. Come, love and health to
all;
Then I’ll sit down. Give me some wine; fill full.
I drink to the general joy o’ the whole table,
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss;
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,
And all to all.
Lords
Our duties, and the pledge.
Re-enter GHOST OF BANQUO

MACBETH
Avaunt! and quit my sight! let the earth hide thee!
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with!

LADY MACBETH
Think of this, good peers,
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

MACBETH
What man dare, I dare:
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The arm’d rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger;
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble: or be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling I inhabit then, protest me
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!
Unreal mockery, hence!

GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes

Why, so: being gone,
I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.

LADY MACBETH
You have displaced the mirth, broke the good
meeting,
With most admired disorder.

MACBETH
Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer’s cloud,
Without our special wonder? You make me
strange
Even to the disposition that I owe,
When now I think you can behold such sights,
And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks,
When mine is blanched with fear.

ROSS
What sights, my lord?

LADY MACBETH
I pray you, speak not; he grows worse and worse;
Question enrages him. At once, good night:
Stand not upon the order of your going,
But go at once.

LENNOX
Good night; and better health
Attend his majesty!

LADY MACBETH
A kind good night to all!

Exeunt all but MACBETH and LADY MACBETH

MACBETH
It will have blood; they say, blood will have
blood:
Stones have been known to move and trees to
speak;
Augurs and understood relations have
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought
forth
The secret’st man of blood. What is the night?

LADY MACBETH
Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH
How say’st thou, that Macduff denies his person
At our great bidding?

LADY MACBETH
Did you send to him, sir?

MACBETH
I hear it by the way; but I will send:
There’s not a one of them but in his house
I keep a servant fee’d. I will to-morrow,
And betimes I will, to the weird sisters:
More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know,
By the worst means, the worst. For mine own
good,
All causes shall give way: I am in blood
Stepp’d in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o’er:
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;
Which must be acted ere they may be scann’d.

LADY MACBETH
You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

MACBETH
Come, we’ll to sleep. My strange and self-abuse
Is the initiate fear that wants hard use:
We are yet but young in deed.
Review the prophecies and additional equivocating statements of the Witches in the passage below.

DECEPTIVE PROPHECY: Create the outline for a skit set in your school in which the lead character runs into three Weird characters. Perhaps this student has ambitions to be Class President, Prom King or Queen, the lead actor in the spring play—be creative as you think specifically about the social world of your school. Using the structure of Macbeth as a model, write and perform a 10-15 minute skit that begins with the protagonist receiving his or her three prophecies. Later, the protagonist will hear three more prophecies, as Macbeth does in IV.1. Without worrying about the end of Macbeth, conclude your own skit as you wish for your story.

Macbeth, IV.1  48-134

MACBETH
How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!
What is’t you do?
ALL
A deed without a name.
MACBETH
I conjure you, by that which you profess,
Howe’er you come to know it, answer me:
Though you untie the winds and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown
down;
Though castles topple on their warders’ heads;
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the
treasure
Of nature’s germens tumble all together,
Even till destruction sicken; answer me
To what I ask you.
FIRST WITCH
Speak.
SECOND WITCH
Demand.
THIRD WITCH
We’ll answer.
FIRST WITCH
Say, if thou’dst rather hear it from our mouths,
Or from our masters?
MACBETH
Call ’em; let me see ’em.
FIRST WITCH
Pour in sow’s blood, that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease that’s sweaten
From the murderer’s gibbet throw
Into the flame.
ALL
Come, high or low;
Thyself and office deefly show!

Thunder. First Apparition: an armed Head

MACBETH
Tell me, thou unknown power,--
FIRST WITCH
He knows thy thought:
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.
FIRST APPARITION
Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.
Descends
MACBETH
Whate’er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;
Thou hast harp’d my fear aright: but one
word more,--
FIRST WITCH
He will not be commanded: here’s another,
More potent than the first.
Thunder. Second Apparition: A bloody Child

SECOND APPARITION
Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!
MACBETH
Had I three ears, I’d hear thee.
SECOND APPARITION
Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn
The power of man, for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.
Descends
MACBETH
Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?
But yet I’ll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;
That I may tell pale-hearted fear it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder.
Thunder. Third Apparition: a Child crowned, with a
tree in his hand

What is this
That rises like the issue of a king,
And wears upon his baby-brow the round
And top of sovereignty?
ALL
Listen, but speak not to’t.
THIRD APPARITION
Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquish’d be until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

Descends
MACBETH
That will never be
Who can impress the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? Sweet bodements!
good!
Rebellion’s head, rise never till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and our high-placed Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath
To time and mortal custom. Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing: tell me, if your art
Can tell so much: shall Banquo’s issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?
ALL
Seek to know no more.
MACBETH
I will be satisfied: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know.
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this?
Hautboys
FIRST WITCH
Show!
SECOND WITCH
Show!
THIRD WITCH
Show!
ALL
Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;
Come like shadows, so depart!
A show of Eight Kings, the last with a glass in his hand;
GHOST OF BANQUO following
MACBETH
Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo: down!
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls. And thy hair,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first.
A third is like the former. Filthy hags!
Why do you show me this? A fourth! Start, eyes!
What, will the line stretch out to the crack of
doom?
Another yet! A seventh! I’ll see no more:
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass
Which shows me many more; and some I see
That two-fold balls and treble scepters carry:
Horrible sight! Now, I see, ’tis true;
For the blood-bolter’d Banquo smiles upon me,
And points at them for his.

Apparitions vanish
What, is this so?
FIRST WITCH
Ay, sir, all this is so: but why
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly?
Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprites,
And show the best of our delights:
I’ll charm the air to give a sound,
While you perform your antic round:
That this great king may kindly say,
Our duties did his welcome pay.

Music. The witches dance and then vanish, with
HECATE
MACBETH
Where are they? Gone? Let this pernicious hour
Stand aye accursed in the calendar!
In his interview with Ralph, Macbeth says, "to be King is nothing; to be King safely is everything." Considering the case of King Duncan, who was killed by one of the few people he thought he could trust, it seems like a King can rarely count on safety. Why does the position still hold so much appeal?

**CAN'T WAIT TO BE KING:** Research the monarchical system of 11th century Scotland. What privileges did a King possess? What was his living situation? What responsibilities did a King have? How was the King viewed in the religious system? Write a 1-2 page paper describing your findings. Has Shakespeare's Macbeth taken advantage of any of the benefits offered to him as King?

**Follow-up Essay:** Research the monarchical system of Shakespeare's England. What kind of lifestyle did King James I lead? What responsibilities did he have? How safe from assassination were royals in Shakespeare's time?
Review Act IV,ii, the scene between Lady Macduff and her son. Ralph relates the events of this act to Lady Macbeth and Macbeth in studio. When Ralph mentions that Macduff has fled for England leaving Lady Macbeth and her son unprotected, Lady Macbeth calls Macduff a "coward." Similarly, upon learning of her husband's flight, Lady Macduff calls Macduff a "traitor" and tells her son that Macduff is dead.

**WOMEN IN MACBETH:** In small groups, discuss the scene. Lady Macduff is the only other mortal woman in *Macbeth* besides Lady Macbeth. How are these two women alike? How are they different? Do you feel that they behave realistically? Rehearse and perform the scene in class, paying particular attention to Lady Macduff’s emotional state. How much is anger motivating her words? How much is she motivated by fear? Compare and discuss each group’s interpretation.

*Macbeth, IV,ii 1-81*

**LADY MACDUFF**
What had he done, to make him fly the land?

**ROSS**
You must have patience, madam.

**LADY MACDUFF**
He had none:
His flight was madness: when our actions do not,
Our fears do make us traitors.

**ROSS**
You know not
Whether it was his wisdom or his fear.

**LADY MACDUFF**
Wisdom! to leave his wife, to leave his babes,
His mansion and his titles in a place
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not;
He wants the natural touch: for the poor wren,
The most diminutive of birds, will fight,
Her young ones in her nest, against the owl.
All is the fear and nothing is the love;
As little is the wisdom, where the flight
So runs against all reason.

**ROSS**
My dearest coz,
I pray you, school yourself: but for your husband,
He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
The fits o’ the season. I dare not speak much further;
But cruel are the times, when we are traitors
And do not know ourselves, when we hold rumour
From what we fear, yet know not what we fear,
But float upon a wild and violent sea
Each way and move. I take my leave of you:
Shall not be long but I’ll be here again:
Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upward
To what they were before. My pretty cousin,
Blessing upon you!

**LADY MACDUFF**
Father’d he is, and yet he’s fatherless.

**ROSS**
I am so much a fool, should I stay longer,
It would be my disgrace and your discomfort:
I take my leave at once.

**Exit**

**LADY MACDUFF**
Sirrah, your father’s dead;
And what will you do now? How will you live?

**SON**
As birds do, mother.

**LADY MACDUFF**
What, with worms and flies?

**SON**
With what I get, I mean; and so do they.

**LADY MACDUFF**
Poor bird! thou’ldst never fear the net nor lime,
The pitfall nor the gin.

**SON**
Why should I, mother? Poor birds they are not set for.
My father is not dead, for all your saying.

**LADY MACDUFF**
Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do for a father?

**SON**
Nay, how will you do for a husband?

**LADY MACDUFF**
Why, I can buy me twenty at any market.

**SON**
Then you’ll buy ‘em to sell again.

**LADY MACDUFF**
Thou speak’st with all thy wit: and yet, i’ faith,
With wit enough for thee.

**SON**
Was my father a traitor, mother?

**LADY MACDUFF**
Ay, that he was.

**SON**
What is a traitor?

**LADY MACDUFF**
Why, one that swears and lies.
SON
And be all traitors that do so?
LADY MACDUFF
Every one that does so is a traitor, and must be hanged.
SON
And must they all be hanged that swear and lie?
LADY MACDUFF
Every one.
SON
Who must hang them?
LADY MACDUFF
Why, the honest men.
SON
Then the liars and swearers are fools, for there are liars and swearers enow to beat the honest men and hang up them.
LADY MACDUFF
Now, God help thee, poor monkey!
But how wilt thou do for a father?
SON
If he were dead, you'd weep for him: if you would not, it were a good sign that I should quickly have a new father.
LADY MACDUFF
Poor Prattler, how thou talk'st!

Enter a Messenger

MESSENGER
Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known, Though in your state of honour I am perfect.
I doubt some danger does approach you nearly:
If you will take a homely man's advice, Be not found here; hence, with your little ones.
To fright you thus, methinks, I am too savage; To do worse to you were fell cruelty,
Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you!
I dare abide no longer.

Exit

LADY MACDUFF
Whither should I fly?
I have done no harm. But I remember now I am in this earthly world; where to do harm Is often laudable, to do good sometime Accounted dangerous folly: why then, alas, Do I put up that womanly defence, To say I have done no harm?

Enter Murderers

What are these faces?
FIRST MURDERER
Where is your husband?
LADY MACDUFF
I hope, in no place so unsanctified Where such as thou mayst find him.
FIRST MURDERER
He's a traitor.
SON
Thou liest, thou shag-hair'd villain!
FIRST MURDERER
What, you egg!
Stabbing him Young fry of treachery!
SON
He has kill'd me, mother: Run away, I pray you!
Dies

Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder!' Exeunt Murderers, following her
LADY M IN THERAPY (DVD 27; V, 1-71)

MACBETH
How does your patient, doctor?

DOCTOR
Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

MACBETH
Cure her of that.
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff’d bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

DOCTOR
Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

(V, iii 37-46)

Macbeth urges the Doctor to minister to Lady Macbeth’s “mind diseased.” These days, we’d turn to a psychotherapist for help in a case like this.

LADY M IN THERAPY: See if putting Lady Macbeth on the couch after V,i could help her cope with her guilt and internal conflict. Script and perform a 2 page exchange between Lady Macbeth and her therapist. You may wish to consider Freud’s essay “Some Character-Types Met Within Psycho-analytical Work” as a resource.

(http://web.singnet.com/~yisheng/notes/shakespeare/mbeth_f.htm)

Macbeth, V,i 1-71

DOCTOR
I have two nights watched with you, but can perceive no truth in your report. When was it she last walked?

GENTLEWOMAN
Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown upon her, unlock her closet, take forth paper, fold it, write upon’t, read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed; yet all this while in a most fast sleep.

DOCTOR
A great perturbation in nature, to receive at once the benefit of sleep, and do the effects of watching! In this slumbery agitation, besides her walking and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say?

GENTLEWOMAN
That, sir, which I will not report after her.

DOCTOR
You may to me; and ’tis most meet you should.

GENTLEWOMAN

Neither to you nor any one; having no witness to confirm my speech.

Enter LADY MACBETH, with a taper

Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her; stand close.

DOCTOR
How came she by that light?

GENTLEWOMAN
Why, it stood by her: she has light by her continually; ’tis her command.

DOCTOR
You see, her eyes are open.

GENTLEWOMAN
Ay, but their sense is shut.

DOCTOR
What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

GENTLEWOMAN
It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands: I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

LADY MACBETH
Yet here’s a spot.
DOCTOR
Hark! she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

LADY MACBETH
Out, damned spot! out, I say!—One: two: why, then, 'tis time to do't.—Hell is murky!—Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?—Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.

DOCTOR
Do you mark that?

LADY MACBETH
The thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?—What, will these hands ne'er be clean?—No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with this starting.

DOCTOR
Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

GENTLEWOMAN
She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that: heaven knows what she has known.

LADY MACBETH
Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh!

DOCTOR
What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

GENTLEWOMAN
I would not have such a heart in my bosom for the dignity of the whole body.

DOCTOR
Well, well, well,—

GENTLEWOMAN
Pray God it be, sir.
MACBETH'S REBUS: Copy Macbeth's "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow" speech in pencil on unlined paper. Select several keywords from each line, preferably words that name ideas or emotions, and erase them. In their place, draw symbols for these words. A symbol is something that stands for something else. Think of creative ways to symbolize the words. Imaging the words in this way can help emphasize emotional content and may alert you to words that hold multiple meanings. Refer to dictionaries to illuminate unfamiliar words.

Macbeth, V,v 17-28

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.
When Ralph remarks on "The Tragedy of Macbeth," Macbeth replies, alarmed, "What do you mean the tragedy of Macbeth?" Could the play be resolved differently?

MACBETH REDUX: What events would need to be changed to have made the play resolve happily for Macbeth? For Lady Macbeth? For Duncan? For Banquo? For others? Trace linked events. Can you spot "chain reactions" in the play, events that caused a series of other events to take place?
Reflect on your experience over the last unit. Write a 1-2 page reaction paper. You may wish to respond to one or more questions from the following list: What moments in Macbeth resonated most strongly for you? How did watching This is Macbeth affect your experience of studying Macbeth? Were there moments when you wish Ralph had asked characters additional questions—and if so, what questions, to whom, and at what point? If you were creating This is Macbeth 2.0, what would you keep and what would you change from the original video?