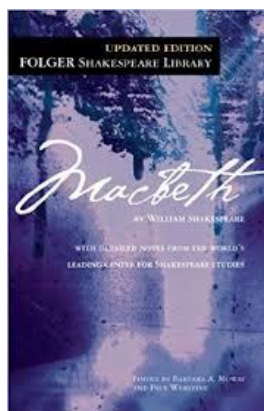


Macbeth



ISBN-10	0-7434-7710-3
ISBN-13	978-0-7434-7710
Author	Shakespeare, William
Publisher	Washington Square Press
Copyright	1992
Lexile	780L
Genre	Tragedy
Synopsis	In 1603, James VI of Scotland ascended the English throne, becoming James I of England. London was alive with an interest in all things Scottish, and Shakespeare turned to Scottish history for material. He found a spectacle of violence and stories of traitors advised by witches and wizards, echoing James's belief in a connection between treason and witchcraft.
Themes	Destruction caused when ambition goes unchecked by moral constraints
Protagonist	Macbeth
Note	Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 1



Key Passage, p. 37

“Banquo tries to warn Macbeth that witches are witches and don’t go around doing good, but Macbeth doesn’t listen” (p. 37).

Writing Prompt

Some friends can be a positive influence on our lives while other friends encourage us to make poor choices. Banquo warns Macbeth not to pay close attention to the three witches. On the other hand, Lady Macbeth encourages Macbeth to take action and kill King Duncan to secure the throne.

Think about your circle of family, friends, and classmates. Write an informative paragraph describing a friend you have that has been a positive influence on your life. How does this friend encourage you to use your time and talent to make positive choices or promote the common good or better your community? Provide an example.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 2



Key Passage, p. 39

“When we next see the Macbeths, they are king and queen. Macbeth questions Banquo about where he is going and when, because Macbeth intends to kill him and his son, Fleance. Banquo knows too much. Remember the prophecies” (p. 39).

Writing Prompt

The Macbeths become the king and queen of Scotland, but do you think they exemplify *leadership requires engagement*? Do they use their time and talent to promote the common good?

In an informative paragraph describe three of Macbeth’s actions as king. Defend whether or not these actions serve the common good or his self-interest. In a second explanatory paragraph, describe what advice would you give Macbeth so that he can better his community as the King of Scotland?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 3



Key Passage, p. 40

“Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth has gone mad. She sleepwalks around the castle, rubbing at the “blood” she fantasizes is still staining her hands. She talks of the other murders, too, so that what she says is so dangerous no one will dare to help her” (p. 40).

Writing Prompt

Lady Macbeth is plagued with guilt. She sleepwalks around the castle and tries to rub the “blood” off her hands. Think about a time when you felt guilty for your actions or words. What would you have done differently?

In an informative paragraph describe a time when you felt guilty for past actions and/or words. Explain what happened first, second, and third. What would or should you have done/said instead?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 4



Key Passage, p. 19

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.*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, page 19, lines 73-81).

Writing Prompt

After Macbeth hears the prophecies from the witches he demands to learn more. Macbeth is hooked and eventually becomes intently focused on how he can become king. This scene reveals Macbeth's interest in the glory, power, and prestige of becoming king. Do you think a leadership is about glory, power, and prestige or do you think it is about serving people in your community?

Leadership requires engagement. Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort, Leadership requires positive civic engagement. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of.

Write Macbeth a letter explaining that people should not seek leadership positions for the glory, power, and prestige. In an informative paragraph, explain how leaders use their time and talent to be a servant to their community. Provide an example of a leader that service to better their community.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 5



Key Passage, p. 23

Banquo

*That, trusted home,
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,
Besides the Thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange.
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's
In deepest consequences. –
Cousins, a word, I pray you.*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 23, lines 132 – 139).

Writing Prompt

Having watched Act I Scene 3 in both film versions, as well in your reading of the text, how do they differ in the their presentation of the scene? **In an explanatory paragraph, detail what you consider to be the most significant difference and similarity in the two film versions of this scene. Provide an example of the most significant difference and most significant similarity.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 6



Key Passage, p. 39-40

Macbeth

*If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: if the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch
With his surcease success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust;
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking-off;
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
And falls on the other.*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 39 – 40, lines 1 – 28).

Writing Prompt

Macbeth makes a mental pro and con list about his decision to kill King Duncan or not. He thinks about the potential consequences of killing the king and reasons why he should not kill the king.

In an explanatory paragraph, describe a time in your life when you had to make a big decision to either “do something” or “not do something”. Explain the pros and cons for this decision. Describe how you came to your decision. How might a pro/con list help you in future decision-making dilemmas?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 7



Key Passage, p. 125-127

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?*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 125 – 127, lines 93 – 101).

Writing Prompt

Macbeth is now king, but wants to secure his throne at all cost! Macbeth seeks out the witches to learn how to maintain his position as king. Pretend you are Macbeth. Write a journal entry about your encounter with the witches. **In an informative paragraph, explain how you found the witches, what you learned from them, and how you feel about their prophecies.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 8



Key Passage, p. 131

Macbeth [aside]

*Time, thou anticipat'st my dreadexploits.
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook
Unless the deed go with it. From this moment
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. And even now,
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
done:
The castle of Macduff I will surprise,
Seize upon Fife, give to th' edge o' th'sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool;
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.
But no more sights!- Where are these gentlemen?
Come bring me where they are.*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 131, lines 164 – 177).

Writing Prompt

Now that Macbeth is king, he has the power to make people disappear. **Write an informative paragraph explaining Macbeth's decision to send murders to kill Macduff's family. In your paragraph be sure to give evidence from the text and film versions.** When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Based on this decision, what kind of leader is Macbeth?
- What else could he have done?
- How is Macbeth pictured as a leader differently in the two movie versions?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 9



Key Passage, p. 163

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?*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 163, lines 37 – 42).

Writing Prompt

The Doctor and Gentlewomen observe Lady Macbeth sleepwalking in her nightgown and talking about the murder of Lady Macduff and Banquo.

Pretend you are the Doctor. **In two informative paragraphs write a medical report. In the first paragraph describes your observation of Lady Macbeth. This paragraph should only include the facts. In the second paragraph explain your “medical opinion” of what should be done to cure Lady Macbeth.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Macbeth, Day 10



Key Passage, p. 185

Macbeth

*Despair thy charm,
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripped.*

(Folger Shakespeare Library, p. 185, lines 17 – 20).

Writing Prompt

Pretend you are Macbeth. Write a journal entry explaining lessons you learned during your life. What did you love about life? What did you regret? **In an explanatory paragraph reflect on the sequence of events that lead to your death. In a second paragraph describe what you would have done differently if you were given a second chance at life.**