



Macbeth Knowledge Organiser			
Very Brief Plot Summary	Politics	Key Quotations	
<p>Act 1: Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches; Cawdor is executed; Lady Macbeth reads the letter and taunts Macbeth; Duncan arrives.</p> <p>Act 2: Macbeth kills Duncan; Malcolm flees; Macbeth is crowned.</p> <p>Act 3: Banquo suspects Macbeth; Banquo is murdered but Fleance escapes; Macbeth is haunted by Banquo's ghost at the banquet.</p> <p>Act 4: The Witches show Macbeth future kings – sons of Banquo; Macduff's family is murdered; Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty.</p> <p>Act 5: Lady Macbeth sleepwalks, dies; Macduff kills Macbeth, Malcolm restored as King.</p>	<p>Written in 1606. There is a strong political theme throughout, with the idea that excessive ambition has terrible consequences. Shakespeare enjoyed a close relationship with King James I and it is thought that in focusing on Macbeth as a figure from Scottish history he was paying homage to the King's lineage.</p>	<p>"Fair is foul and foul is fair" Act 1 Scene 1</p> <p>"When shall we three meet again In thunder, lightning, or in rain?" Act 1, Scene 1</p> <p>"O Valiant cousin, worthy gentleman" Act 1, Scene 3</p> <p>"So foul and fair a day I have not seen" Act 1 Scene 3</p> <p>"Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under 't." Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"Come, you spirits, That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"Yet do I fear thy nature, It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way." Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"I have thee not, and yet I see thee still." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"That hath made them drunk hath made me bold. What hath quenched them hath given me fire." Act 2, Scene 2</p> <p>"To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself." Act 2, scene 2</p> <p>"It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman." Act 2, Scene 2</p> <p>"O gentle lady, 'tis not for you to hear what I can speak. The repetition in a woman's ear would murder as it fell." Act 2, Scene 3</p> <p>"Things without all remedy should be without regard: what's done, is done." Act 3, Scene 3</p> <p>"There's daggers in men's smiles. The near in blood, The nearer bloody." Act 3, Scene 3</p> <p>"Be bloody, bold, and resolute. Laugh to scorn the power of man, for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth." Act 4, Scene 1</p> <p>"Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble." Act 4, Scene 1</p> <p>"Here's the smell of the blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand." Act 5, Scene 1</p> <p>"Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" Act 5, Scene 1</p> <p>"Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests; I bear a charmed life, which must not yield to one of woman born." Act 5, Scene 8</p>	
	Supernatural		<p>Witchcraft and supernatural were both of great interest and hugely feared. Again, King James I was highly intrigued by (and suspicious of) the supernatural, and even wrote about the subject. The audience believed anything associated with the supernatural to be evil and menacing.</p>
	Characters		Order
<p>Macbeth: One of King Duncan's generals. He loves power; the witches tempt him into murder. Originally Thane of Glamis, he becomes the Thane of Cawdor, then King of Scotland.</p> <p>Lady Macbeth: Macbeth's wife. She is ambitious and drives him to murder but is driven mad by conscience.</p> <p>Three Witches: Sinister ladies of witchcraft who tempt Macbeth to do dark deeds.</p> <p>Banquo: A general and friend of Macbeth. The prophecy does not corrupt him. He is murdered by Macbeth as he is considered a threat. His ghost haunts Macbeth.</p> <p>King Duncan: The good and noble King of Scotland, murdered by Macbeth.</p> <p>Macduff: Thane of Fife. He opposes Macbeth and supports Malcolm. He kills Macbeth in revenge for the murder of his family.</p> <p>Malcolm: Duncan's son. He flees with his brother after the murder of Duncan but returns with English support to challenge Macbeth.</p> <p>Fleance: Banquo's son. Macbeth tries and fails to murder him. He flees Scotland but it's implied he will return one day to fulfil the prophecy and become King.</p> <p>Hecate: Queen of the Witches.</p>	<p>A century earlier, England had experienced chaotic disorder during the War of the Roses. An underlying threat is evident throughout the play that treachery may once again bring disaster. Many events in the play challenge the idea of 'order'.</p>		
	Philosophy	<p>The accepted belief was that everyone had his or her place in life. Monarchs were seen as second only to God. The idea of Macbeth planning to kill the King of Scotland would have caused outrage and shock in the audience.</p> <p>This would have gone against everything that was so firmly believed at the time.</p>	
	Gender	<p>There were strong expectations of both men and women throughout this period. Women were expected to be submissive to their husbands. A woman with an education was still a rarity. Women were ruled by men and supposed to be pious and pure. The idea that a woman could challenge a man was unheard of and would have shocked audiences.</p>	


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Themes		Key Vocabulary	Language and Techniques
Ambition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most well-known theme. • Affects both Macbeth & Lady Macbeth. • Ambition is corrupting and leads to evil. 	Good and Evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macbeth must choose between them. • The witches symbolise evil. • Choices have consequences. 	ambition/ambitious manipulate/manipulative greed usurp prophecy contempt supernatural apparition malevolent noble moral/immoral vile witchcraft power soliloquy protagonist villain hamartia machiavellian treachery allude/allusion iambic pentameter sinister regicide surreal valour disorder	similes metaphors personification alliteration rhyming couplets changes in iambic pentameter metre questioning imagery related to themes animal imagery irony/dramatic irony pathetic fallacy paradox symbols and motifs rhetorical questions
Appearance and Reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Macbeth believes Macbeth is a poor actor. • Macbeth sees powerful visions. • Banquo appears as a 'vision'. • Witches seem 'useful' to Macbeth but bring about his downfall. 	Order and Chaos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A century earlier – War of the Roses. • Civil disorder seen as perilous. • Macbeth's restored 'order' is only an illusion. 		
The Supernatural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idea that mysterious forces control us. • Does Macbeth become possessed? • Strong belief and fear of witchcraft at the time. 	Loyalty and Betrayal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominate the play as themes. • Cawdor punished for betrayal. • Macbeth rewarded for loyalty at outset. • Macbeth betrays Banquo and Duncan. • Macbeth remains loyal to Lady Macbeth. 		
Symbols and Motifs <p>Cruelty and masculinity; blood and guilt; hallucinations and dreams; prophecy; light/dark/inclement weather; sleep.</p>			

