

## Y8 MACBETH : KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

<b>Other key quotes</b>	
<p><b>Witches</b> “Fair is foul and foul is fair”</p> <p>“All hail Macbeth! Thou shalt be king hereafter”</p> <p><b>Apparitions</b> “Beware Macduff!”</p> <p>“none of woman born shall harm Macbeth”</p> <p>“Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill Shall come against him”</p>	<p><b>Banquo</b> “The instruments of darkness tell us truths” – <i>warns Macbeth to be wary of the witches’ prophecies because they might want to cause him harm</i></p> <p>“I fear thou played’st most foully for it” – <i>becomes suspicious of Macbeth after Duncan’s murder</i></p> <p>“he hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour” – <i>Macbeth intends to kill Banquo because he is clever and will figure out what Macbeth has done</i></p>
<b>Context</b>	
<p><b>The writer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Shakespeare, a 16<sup>th</sup> century writer, wrote the play</li> <li>• Its genre is <i>tragedy</i></li> <li>• He may have written it to impress King James I, who was King of both Scotland and England</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Divine Right of Kings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People at the time believed that monarchs (kings and queens) were given their right to rule directly from God</li> <li>• Treason (<b>betrayal/overthrowing of the monarch</b>) would have been considered a terrible crime</li> <li>• Macbeth’s defeat could be seen as punishment for his ambitious attempt to take the throne away from the rightful heir</li> </ul>
<p><b>Witchcraft</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King James believed in witchcraft and led many witch-hunts in Scotland</li> <li>• He wrote a book called <i>Daemonologie</i></li> <li>• Witches were often blamed for unlucky events</li> <li>• They were usually older women</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gender</b></p> <p>Women in this era were expected to be submissive to men (do what men told them to), weak, innocent and gentle. Lady Macbeth breaks the gender norms of the time with her cruelty, deception and violence, shocking the audience</p> <p>Men were expected to be brave and strong. Lady Macbeth often criticises Macbeth for his displays of emotions such as worry and guilt.</p>

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### Key Words

- **Soliloquy** – a speech spoken to oneself that no one else hears. Usually said alone on stage and gives an insight into the character’s thoughts and feelings.
- **Hierarchy** – a system of ranking one above another according to power and status.
- **Jacobean era** – the period of time following on from the Elizabethan era when Elizabeth I was queen. In the Jacobean era James I was king. Macbeth was written in this time period.
- **Feminism** – the idea that both men and women should have equal rights. The word and concept developed in the late 1800s (Macbeth was written in 1606 or 1607).
- **Playwright** – a person who writes plays – could also be called a writer and/or dramatist (writer of dramas)
- **Ambition** – a strong desire to achieve something. E.g *Her ambition was to be Prime Minister.*
- **Patriarchal** – describing a society where men have the power and control. E.g. *In a patriarchal society women have to fight for their rights.*
- **Tragedy** - Genre (type) of play that originated (started in) in Ancient Greece. This type of play usually features a hero who suffers and is ultimately defeated, causing the audience to feel pity.
- **pathetic fallacy** - Use of the weather to create a certain atmosphere.
- **dramatic irony** - A technique where the full or true meaning of a character’s speech or actions is clear to the audience but not the other characters.

### Key Skills

- Explain the effects of Shakespeare’s use of language, considering impact on the audience and language techniques used
- Offer thoughtful personal responses to the play
- Apply knowledge of the context to analysis and interpretation
- Communicate clearly in well punctuated and structured paragraphs

### Help/Support

- Shakespeare presents (character/theme) as.....
- The line/phrase “.....” tells the reader that.....
- This implies/suggests/explores the idea that.....
- The word/phrase/image “.....” shows/implies/suggests
- During this time in history/the Jacobean era ....
- Shakespeare may have wanted to show that.....

### Key characters/quotations:

<u>Macbeth</u>	<u>Lady Macbeth</u>
“Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel, Which smoked with bloody execution...he faced the slave... he unseamed him from the nave to th'chaps,” (1.2) - <i>Duncan and the lords celebrate Macbeth’s bravery</i>	“... too full of the milk of human kindness” (1.5) – <i>worries that Macbeth is too innocent and compassionate to murder King Duncan</i>
“I have no spur... only vaulting ambition, which overleaps itself and falls” (1.7) – <i>foreshadows future events that happen because of ambition</i>	“Unsex me here...Come to my woman’s breasts and take my milk for gall” (1.5) – <i>casts away femininity, would exchange her milk for poison/bitterness</i>
“False face must hide what the false heart doth know” (1.7) – <i>he needs to hide his intentions (the plot to murder Duncan)</i>	“Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under ‘t” (1.5) – <i>encourages Macbeth to betray Duncan</i>
“Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand?” (2.1) – <i>hallucinates the dagger before the murder</i>	“I would... have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums and dashed the brains out” (1.7) – <i>shows the terrible lengths she would go to achieve her ambition</i>
“Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!” (2.2) – <i>shows regret for his act of murder</i>	“When you durst do it, then you were a man” (1.7) – <i>manipulates Macbeth using his sense of masculinity</i>
“O, full of scorpions is my mind!” (3.2) <i>haunted by guilt</i>	“Had he not resembled my father as he slept, I had done’t” (2.2) – <i>claims she could not commit the murder because Duncan reminds her of her father</i>
“Thou canst not say I did it! Never shake thy gory locks at me!” (3.4) <i>Macbeth sees Banquo’s ghost, haunted by his deeds</i>	“What’s done is done” “You must leave this” (3.2) – <i>tries to reassure Macbeth and encourages him to move on when he is feeling guilty about the murder</i>
Life’s but a walking shadow...It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing” (5.5) – <i>his grief following Lady Macbeth’s death, thinks about the meaninglessness of life</i>	“All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand...Out damned spot!” (5.1) – <i>as she goes mad she hallucinates blood on her hands – guilt</i>