

NAME:

HOUR:

MACBETH
AKA THE SCOTTISH
PLAY
BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

Macbeth Calendar Rough Draft

Monday, October 5 th	Begin Macbeth Background Information and Notes 32 Second Macbeth Packet Handout	'P question. derstood 1
Tuesday, October 6 th	Act I	
Wednesday, October 7 th	Finish Act I Work on Questions	
Thursday, October 8 th	Finish Act I Gender Roles Paragraph	
Friday, October 9 th	He Says, She Says All Due Monday	
Monday, October 12 th	Act 1 Work due Begin Act II Watch Act II	
Tuesday, October 13 th	Watch Porter Scene and do Porter Assignment Due at end of hour	
Wednesday, October 14 th	Performance Introduction Act III Act II work due Tuesday	
Tuesday, October 20 th	Act III	
Wednesday, October 21 st	Act III	
Thursday, October 22 nd	Act IV summary	
Friday, October 23 rd	Macbeth Activity TBA	
Monday, October 26 th	Act V Packet due Thursday	
Tuesday, October 27 th	Act V	
Wednesday, October 28 th	Study Guide	
Thursday, October 29 th	Packets due Test	
Friday, October 30 th	Performances	

William Shakespeare Factsheet

- William Shakespeare was born on around April 23, 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon. The date is not certain because birth records in the 16th century were not strictly kept.
- Shakespeare attended grammar school where he studied Latin grammar, Latin literature and rhetoric (the use of language).
- In November 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. When they married, he was 18 and she was 26. They had three children.
- He moved to London sometime after the birth of his second and third children (twins).



Monarchs during Shakespeare's lifetime:

- Queen Elizabeth I (1558 –1603)
- King James I (1603 –1625)
- Shakespeare joined the theatre company called the "Lord Chamberlain's Men" – later called the "King's Men", funded by King James.
- Shakespeare not only wrote plays; he also performed on stage as a professional actor in London.
- By his retirement in 1612, Shakespeare had written 37 plays:

Comedies	Histories	Tragedies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All's Well That Ends Well • As You Like It • Comedy of Errors • Love's Labour's Lost • Measure for Measure • Merchant of Venice • Merry Wives of Windsor • Midsummer Night's Dream • Much Ado about Nothing • Taming of the Shrew • Tempest • Twelfth Night • Two Gentlemen of Verona • Winter's Tale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymbeline • Henry IV, Part I • Henry IV, Part II • Henry V • Henry VI, Part I • Henry VI, Part II • Henry VI, Part III • Henry VIII • King John • Pericles • Richard II • Richard III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antony and Cleopatra • Coriolanus • Hamlet • Julius Caesar • King Lear • Macbeth • Othello • Romeo and Juliet • Timon of Athens • Titus Andronicus • Troilus and Cressida



- Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on April 23, 1616, aged 52. He is buried under stone floor in the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.
- Carved over his grave is the following verse (the spelling has been modernized).

*Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blessed be the man that spares these stones,
And cursed be he that moves my bones.*

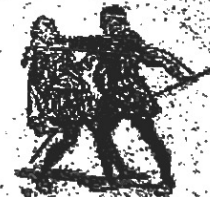


M A T B E T H

Notes on Shakespearian Tragedy

Question. I
Good r

1. A tragedy is pre-eminently the story of one person, the "hero" and leads up to and includes the hero's death.
2. The story also depicts the troubled parts of the hero's life. It is a tale of calamity and suffering conducting to death.
3. The suffering and calamity are exceptional and befall a conspicuous person. They often contrast with previous glory and happiness.
4. Shakespearian tragedy is concerned always with persons of "high degree", often Kings and Princes or leader of state.
5. The fate of the person affects the welfare of the whole nation.
6. The calamities of tragedy do not simply happen. They proceed mainly from the action of men. These deeds are characteristic of the doer.
7. Shakespeare occasionally presents abnormal conditions of mind – insanity, somnambulism, hallucinations etc...
8. He sometimes introduces the supernatural into his tragedies eg. witches and ghosts.
9. In most of his tragedies he allows chance or accident an appreciable influence at some point in the action.
10. In tragedy there is an outward conflict of persons or groups, and also a conflict of forces in the hero's soul. He is torn by an inward struggle.
11. The nature of the hero is also exceptional and generally raises him in some respect above the average level of humanity. In the circumstances where we see the hero placed, his tragic trait is fatal to him.
12. In Shakespearian tragedy the main source of suffering and death is never good – it is evil in the fullest sense – a plain moral evil.
13. The hero also shows some marked imperfection of defect eg. pride, ambition, rashness etc...and this contributes to the conflict and catastrophe.



Macbeth

Themes and Motifs

Themes

- The Nature of Evil. What is the source of Macbeth's evil? Is he cursed by the witches? Is he following his fate? Does he have a fatal flaw, ambition? Is he, like Adam, tempted and led to sin by Eve/Lady Macbeth? Is he tempted by the witches' prophecies or do the witches symbolize the thoughts which were already in his mind?
- Fair and foul. To the Weird Sisters what is ugly is beautiful, and what is beautiful is ugly: "Fair is foul and foul is fair." Throughout the play, fair appearances hide foul realities.
- Equivocation. This theme is closely related to the "Fair and Foul" theme, because to equivocate is to lie by saying something that sounds fair, but which has a hidden, foul meaning.
- Nature and the Unnatural. In *Macbeth* the word "nature" usually refers to human nature, and one might say that the whole play is about Macbeth's unnaturalness. He kills his king, his friend, and a woman and her children. In the end he is destroyed when nature itself appears to become unnatural: trees walk and Macbeth has to fight a man not of woman born.
- Manhood. In different ways, the play repeatedly asks what it means to be a man.

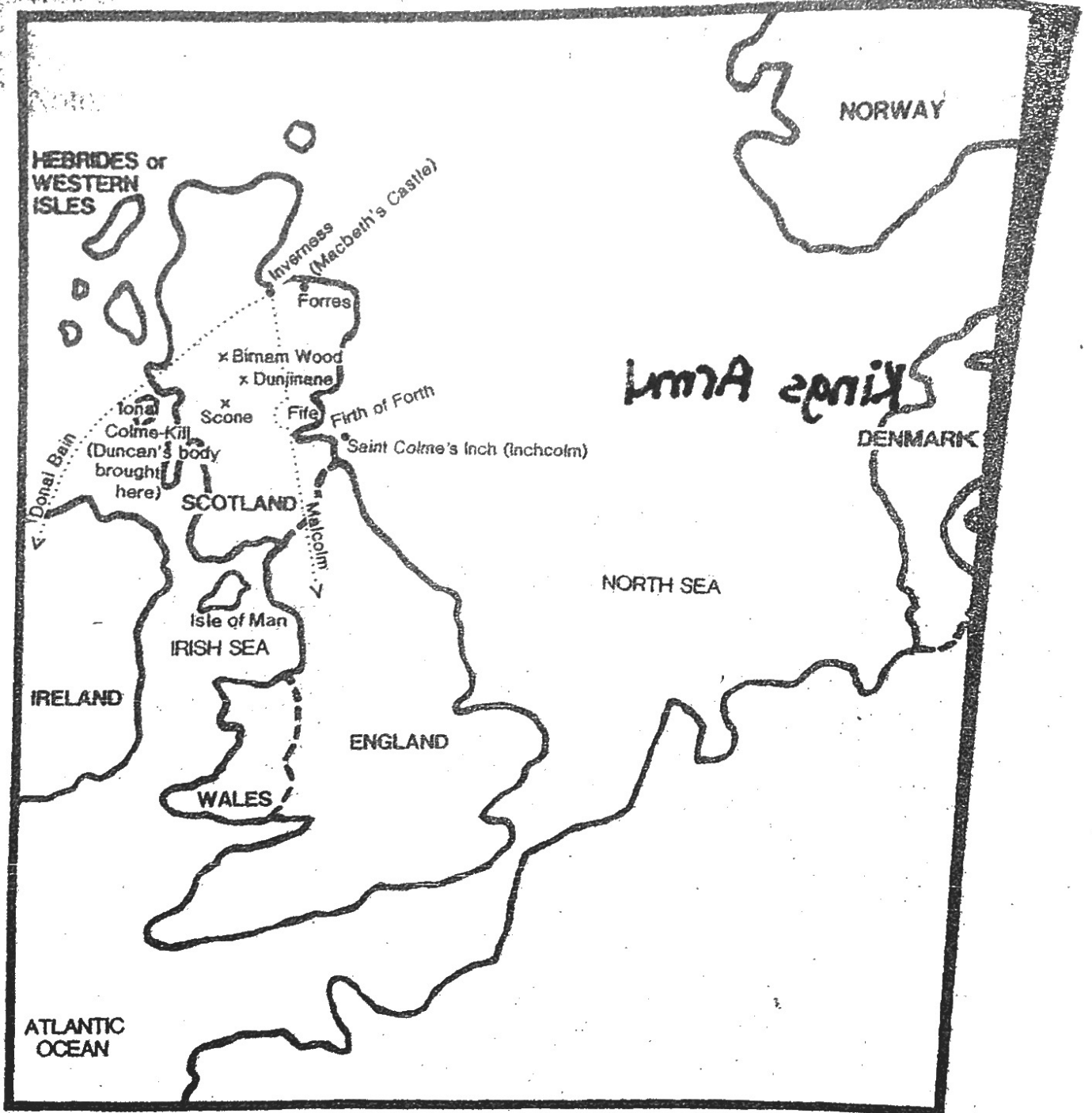
Motifs

- Blood. In the second scene of the play, the report of Macbeth's heroic victory is delivered by a "bloody man." Thereafter, we see and hear of much more blood.
- Sight, Light, Darkness, and Blindness. Much of *Macbeth* takes place in the dark, and both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seem to believe that the dark can hide their crimes, perhaps even from themselves.
- Babies and Children. Shakespeare doesn't often portray children, but there's one in this play, and there are repeated references to babies and children.
- Sleep. We often say that we need to "sleep on" a problem, but what do you do when you murder sleep, as Macbeth does?
- Heaven and Hell. In *Macbeth* both of these places seem very close to earth.
- Birds. There are many birds in the play, most of them of ill omen.
- Ill-fitting clothes. There are many references to borrowed or ill-fitting clothes which represent Macbeth's ill-gotten kingship.

Name _____

Date _____

The Geography of Macbeth



ACT I

SPOILER ALERT!!!

- Act 1, Scene 1: The witches plan their meeting with Macbeth.
- Act 1, Scene 2: A sergeant tells of the heroic deeds of Macbeth. . . . King Duncan announces that Macbeth will be given the title of Thane of Cawdor.
- Act 1, Scene 3: The witches prophesy that Macbeth shall be king and Banquo shall be father of kings. . . . Ross and Angus tell Macbeth he has been given the title of Thane of Cawdor. . . . Macbeth muses on the possibility of killing the King in order to be king.
- Act 1, Scene 4: King Duncan is told of the execution of the rebel Thane of Cawdor. . . . King Duncan thanks Macbeth for his heroic service, then announces that Malcolm is heir to the throne.
- Act 1, Scene 5: Lady Macbeth reads Macbeth's letter about what the weird sisters said, and works herself up to work him up to murder. . . . When Macbeth arrives, Lady Macbeth tells him to look innocent and follow her lead.
- Act 1, Scene 6: King Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle and is greeted by Lady Macbeth.
- Act 1, Scene 7: Macbeth almost talks himself out of killing the King. . . . Lady Macbeth gives her husband a tongue-lashing that makes him commit to their plan to murder the King.

ACT I

1. Explain the meaning of the witches' utterance "Fair is foul and foul is fair."
2. Why does Duncan give the title of Cawdor to Macbeth?
3. Why does the First Witch seek revenge on the woman at the beginning of Act I, scene iii? What does this tell the audience about the witches?
4. When Banquo and Macbeth meet the witches, what prophecies do the witches make for Macbeth?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
5. What prophecies do the witches make for Banquo?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
6. How does Lady Macbeth learn about the witches' prophecies for Macbeth? What is her reaction?
7. What is Lady Macbeth's plan for killing Duncan?
8. In a soliloquy, Macbeth lists three reasons why Duncan does not deserve to be murdered. What are they?
9. In the same soliloquy, what does Macbeth reveal as his only motivation for wanting to murder Duncan?
10. Who does Duncan name to inherit the throne after his death?

Gender Roles

Act I Scene 5

Discuss in a paragraph below how Lady Macbeth views gender roles? How would Shakespeare's audience be likely to judge Lady Macbeth at this point? Why? What is your opinion of her?

**HE SAYS, SHE SAYS
ACT 1 SC. 7**

He says (lines 1-28)

She says (line 29)

He says (line 30)

She says (line 31)

He says (lines 32-35)

She says (36-45)

He says (46-48)

She says (49-59)

He says (59)

She says (59-72)

He says (72-77)

She says (77-79)

He says (79-82)

ACT II

SPOILER ALERT!!!

- Act 2, Scene 1: Past midnight, Macbeth tells Banquo that they'll speak of the witches another time, and bids him goodnight. . . . Macbeth sees "a dagger of the mind," hears his wife's bell, and goes to kill King Duncan.
- Act 2, Scene 2: Lady Macbeth waits for Macbeth to come with the news that he has killed the King. . . . Macbeth is so shaken by the murder that he brings the bloody daggers with him, and Lady Macbeth takes them from him, to place them with the sleeping grooms. . . . A knocking at the castle gate frightens Macbeth, and his wife comes to lead him away, so that they can wash the blood from their hands.
- Act 2, Scene 3: The Porter pretends that he is hell's gatekeeper, then lets in Macduff and Lennox. . . . Macduff discovers King Duncan's body. . . . Macbeth, in pretended fury, kills the King's grooms. . . . Malcolm and Donalbain, fearing that they will be murdered next, flee.
- Act 2, Scene 4: Ross and an Old Man discuss what an unnatural night it has been. . . . Ross and Macduff doubtfully discuss the news that Malcolm and Donalbain are responsible for their father's murder. . . . Ross heads for Scotland, to see Macbeth crowned King of Scotland, but Macduff is going to stay home.

ACT II
QUESTIONS

1. After visiting Duncan's room and hearing one attendant exclaim, "God bless you," Macbeth is unable to say, "Amen." Why does this concern him?
2. Why doesn't Lady Macbeth kill Duncan when she has the chance? What tasks related to the murder does she perform?
3. What explicit details in the Porter's speech might support the idea that the castle is hell?
4. What evidence of pathetic fallacy—nature mirroring human events—occur after Duncan's murder?
5. What does Macbeth do that is not in the murderous plan?
6. How do the behavior of the horses and the owl mirror Macbeth's actions?
7. Why does Macduff choose not to attend Macbeth's coronation?
8. Where do Duncan's two sons—Malcolm and Donalbain—decide to go after the murder? Why do they decide to flee?

THE PORTER

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

Did you like the porter scene? What about the video interview? Why was there a need for comic relief?

How is the porter's speech ironic?

ACT III

SPOILER ALERT!!!!

• Act 3, Scene 1: Banquo expresses his suspicion of Macbeth, and wonders if the witches' predictions will come true for himself, as they have for Macbeth. . . . Macbeth questions Banquo about the ride he's taking and insists he return in time for a banquet that night. . . . Macbeth persuades two Murderers that Banquo is their enemy, then sends them out to kill Banquo and his son, Fleance.

• Act 3, Scene 2: Lady Macbeth and Macbeth both envy the peaceful dead, who sleep in peace, while they, who have everything, live in constant fear of losing everything. . . . Macbeth reassures Lady Macbeth that their problems will be solved by a terrible deed to be done in the night.

• Act 3, Scene 3: A third Murderer joins the first two. . . . Banquo is killed, but Fleance escapes.

• Act 3, Scene 4: Macbeth and Lady Macbeth welcome the guests to their banquet. . . . Macbeth hears from First Murderer that Banquo is dead, but Fleance has escaped. . . . The bloody Ghost of Banquo -- which only Macbeth can see -- appears among the guests. . . . When his guests are gone, Macbeth tells his wife he's going to find out why Macduff didn't attend their banquet. Then he hints that he may have to shed more blood, and decides he will speak to the witches again.

• Act 3, Scene 5: The three Witches appear with Hecate, who scolds them for having dealings with Macbeth without including her. Hecate tells them that Macbeth is coming to see them the next morning, and then they will show him some magic that will mislead him to his own destruction.

• Act 3, Scene 6: Lennox and another Lord have a conversation which shows that they have seen through Macbeth's lies and know that he is responsible for the murder of Banquo and King Duncan. They also wish Macduff well, because he has gone to England for help in freeing Scotland from the tyrant Macbeth.

ACT IV

SPOILER ALERT

• Act 4, Scene 1: Chanting "Double, double, toil and trouble," the three Witches stir the cauldron. . . . The witches call up apparitions which give Macbeth warnings, promises, and prophecies: beware Macduff, fear "none of woman born," fear nothing until Birnam wood come to Dunsinane, Banquo's issue shall be kings. . . . The Witches vanish and Macbeth calls in Lennox, who tells him that Macduff has fled to England, whereupon Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's wife and children.

• Act 4, Scene 2: Ross brings Lady Macduff the news that her husband has fled Scotland. . . . Lady Macduff and her son joke about Macduff being a traitor. . . . A messenger rushes in to tell Lady Macduff to run for her life, but right after him come the murderers who kill the boy and his mother.

• Act 4, Scene 3: Macduff seeks Malcolm's support for a war against Macbeth, and Malcolm tests Macduff's intentions. . . . A doctor tells of the English King's miraculous ability to heal the sick. . . . Speaking to Malcolm and Macduff, Ross tells of Scotland's suffering under Macbeth and of the slaughter of Macduff's wife and children. Everyone is now ready to make war against Macbeth.

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ACT III QUESTIONS

After the murder of Duncan, why does Macbeth fear Banquo?

2. How does Macbeth convince the murderers to kill Banquo?

3. What part does Lady Macbeth play in plotting the murder of Banquo?

4. What is the significance of the rhyming couplet in Macbeth words to the murderer?
"It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight/It if find heaven, find it out tonight."

5. Macbeth alludes to nightmares that have been afflicting him and Lady Macbeth? In what way is sleeplessness a theme in this play?

6. Explain the attitudes and roles of Lady Macbeth and Macbeth regarding the murders of Duncan and Banquo.

7. How is Fleance's escape a turning point for Macbeth?

8. Explain the context of this quotation: "There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled/Hath nature that in time will venom breed/No teeth for th' present."

9. What ghost appears at Macbeth's dinner table? How does this affect Macbeth? How does Lady Macbeth's react to her husband's behavior?

10. Macduff does not attend Macbeth's coronation. Later, he does not attend Macbeth's dinner. Explain Macbeth's view of Macduff regarding these two absences. Why does Macduff go to England?

ACT V

SPOILER ALERT!!!

- Act 5, Scene 1: Lady Macbeth's waiting-gentlewoman tells a doctor of the Lady's sleep-walking. . . . Lady Macbeth walks and talks in her sleep, revealing guilty secrets.
- Act 5, Scene 2: The Scottish forces arrayed against Macbeth are on the march. The Scottish leaders comment on Macbeth's desperate rage.
- Act 5, Scene 3: Macbeth hears that his thangs are abandoning him, that the English army is approaching, and that his wife is soul-sick, but he tries to convince himself that he has nothing to fear, and prepares to fight.
- Act 5, Scene 4: The forces opposed to Macbeth enter Birnam wood, and Malcolm gives the order for every soldier to cut a tree branch and hold it before him.
- Act 5, Scene 5: Macbeth expresses his defiance of the forces marching against him, then hears a cry of women and receives the news of his wife's death. . . . A messenger reports that Birnam woods is coming to Dunsinane; Macbeth goes out to meet his fate.
- Act 5, Scene 6: The English and Scottish forces, led by Malcolm, begin their attack upon Dunsinane.
- Act 5, Scene 7: Macbeth fights Young Siward and kills him. . . . Macduff seeks Macbeth. . . . Malcolm and Siward take possession of Dunsinane.
- Act 5, Scene 8: Macduff and Macbeth do battle. Macbeth boasts that he cannot be harmed by "one of woman born," but Macduff replies that he was "from his mother's womb / Untimely ripp'd." They fight on and Macduff kills Macbeth. . . . Malcolm, Siward and the rest enter. Siward receives the news of his son's heroic death. . . . Macduff enters with the head of Macbeth. Malcolm is hailed king of Scotland, whereupon he rewards his followers and invites all to see him crowned.

ACT V

QUESTIONS

1. Sleep and sleeplessness are other themes in the play. Describe Lady Macbeth's actions during her sleepwalking. What do you think Lady Macbeth's disturbed sleep represents?
2. How do you think the doctor feels as he realizes what Lady Macbeth has just confessed?
3. How does Macbeth's treatment of his servant reveal his character?
4. The doctor does not help Lady Macbeth and does not satisfy Macbeth. What do you think is the purpose of having him appear in the play?
5. As the camouflaged forces move on Dunsinane, how will they look to an observer on the battlements of the castle?
6. When does Lady Macbeth die?
7. What is Macbeth's plan for dealing with the attacking troops? Why has he been forced to choose this plan?
8. How are the apparitions' prophecies in Act IV fulfilled in Act V?
9. At the end of the play, what has become of Macbeth? Who becomes the king?
10. The last act of Macbeth contains the play's climax, the moment when the major character's conflict is finally resolved. What part of Act V do you consider the conflict? What is resolved?