WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

MACBETH



STUDENT SUPPORT BOOKLET

Theme/Motif	Key	False Appearances	
Ambition	RR		
Prophesy		Murder/Violence	X
Guilt		Religious/moral conflict	Å
Presentation of		Supernatural	
femininity/ masculinity		Blood	
			2

Act	WHAT HAPPENS?	KEY QUOTES	KEY THEM ES/MO TIFS
Act 1	Summary: Act 1, scene 1Three witches make plans to meet Macbeth.Summary: Act 1, scene 2King Duncan of Scotland asks a wounded captain for news about the Scots' battlewith the Irish invaders, who are led by the rebel Macdonwald. The captaindescribes how brave Macbeth is in battle. King Duncan gives orders for The Thaneof Cawdor to be executed for treason. He says he wants Macbeth to be Thane ofCawdor.	"Fair is foul, and foul is fair" (witches) "with his brandished steel, Which smoked with bloody execution [] he unseamed him from the name to th'chaps" (Captain to Duncan)	
	 Summary: Act 1, scene 3 Macbeth and Banquo are returning from battle when they meet the witches. They hail Macbeth as thane of Glamis (his original title) and as thane of Cawdor. Macbeth is confused by this second title, as he has not yet heard of King Duncan's decision. The witches also declare that Macbeth will be king one day. They call Banquo "lesser than Macbeth, and greater," and "not so happy, yet much happier"; then they tell him that he will never be king but that his children will be kings. Ross arrives and tells Macbeth that the king has made him thane of Cawdor, so the witches' prophecy has come true. Macbeth then wonders if he will one day be king and whether he will have to perform a dark deed in order to gain the crown. 	"All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter" (witch's prophesy)	

Summary: Act 1, scene 4 Plans are made for Duncan to dine at Macbeth's castle that evening, and Macbeth informs his wife of the king's impending arrival.	"I do fear thy nature, It is too full o'th'milk of human kindness To catch the nearest way." (Lady Macbeth about Macbeth)	
Summary: Act 1, scene 5 In Inverness, Macbeth's castle, Lady Macbeth reads to herself a letter she has received from Macbeth informing her of the Witches' prophesy. She says that she is worried that Macbeth might be too full of "th' milk of human kindness" to make	"Come, you spirits That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here"	
sure that this prophesy comes true quickly- in other words, to kill King Duncan.	"fill me from the crown to the toe topfull Of direst cruelty"	
A messenger informs Lady Macbeth that the king is on his way to the castle, and that Macbeth is on his way as well. She resolves to put her natural femininity aside	"Make thick my blood, Stop up th'access and passage to remorse"	
so that she can do the bloody deeds necessary to seize the crown. Macbeth arrives and she tells him the plan.	"Come to my women's breasts And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers"	
Summary: Act 1, scene 7 Macbeth has doubts about killing King Duncan. Lady Macbeth enters and, when	"Look like th'innocent flower, But be the serpent under't"(Lady Macbeth to Macbeth)	
Macbeth has doubts about kining king burean. Lady Macbeth enters and, when Macbeth tells her he will not go ahead with the plan Lady Macbeth becomes angry and persuades him to go ahead with killing Duncan.	"This even-handed justice Commends th'ingredience of our poisoned chalice To our own lips."(Macbeth's moral conflict about killing Duncan)	A.
	"He's here in double trust" (Macbeth on how he is being duplicitous in letting Duncan trust him)	
	"his virtues Will plead like angels" (Macbeth on Duncan)	
	"What beast was't then That made you break this enterprise to me?" "I have given suck and know How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me: I would, while it were smiling in my face,	
	Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn As you have done to this"	

Act 2	Summary: Act 2, scene 1	"Is this a dagger I see before me[]?"	~~
ACT 2	Banquo and his son Fleance are at Macbeth's castle. Macbeth enters, and Banquo		A
	is surprised to see him still up. Banquo mentions that he had a dream about the		
	"three weird sisters." When Banquo suggests that the witches have revealed		
	"some truth" to Macbeth, Macbeth claims that he has not thought of them at all		
	since their encounter in the woods.		
	Banquo and Fleance leave, and suddenly, in the darkened hall, Macbeth has a		
	vision of a dagger floating in the air before him, its handle pointing toward his		(vision of dage
	hand and its tip aiming him toward Duncan. Macbeth tries to grasp the weapon		(vision of dagg
	and fails. Lady Macbeth's signal that the chamberlains are asleep—and Macbeth		
	strides toward Duncan's chamber.		•
	Summary: Act 2, scene 2		
	Lady Macbeth waits and Macbeth emerges, his hands covered in blood, and says		
	that the deed is done. He tells her that he heard the chamberlains awake and say		V
	their prayers before going back to sleep. When they said "amen," he tried to say it	"Sleep no more, / Macbeth does murder sleep".	
	with them but found that the word stuck in his throat. He adds that as he killed the		
	king, he thought he heard a voice cry out: "Sleep no more, / Macbeth does murder	"Infirm of purpose!"(Lady Macbeth to Macbeth when	
	sleep".	she sees he has brought the daggers)	
	Lady Macbeth realises that Macbeth forgot to leave the daggers, so she becomes		
	angry and takes them off him to return them. She says she would be ashamed to	"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean	
	be as cowardly as him. Macbeth says "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this	from my hand?"	
	blood / Clean from my hand?" Lady Macbeth returns and tells him "A little water	,,	/
	clears us of this deed."	"My hands are of your colour, but I shame	•
		To wear a heart so white"(Lady Macbeth to Macbeth)	× ►
		"A little water clears us of this deed." (Lady Macbeth)	
	Summary: Act 2, scene 3	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	The next morning, Macduff enters the king's chamber. With a cry of "O horror,		
	horror, horror!", he runs out, shouting that the king has been murdered. Lady		
	Macbeth expresses her horror that such a deed could be done under her roof.		
	Malcolm and Donalbain arrive on the scene. They are told that their father has		
	been killed, most likely by his chamberlains, who were found with bloody daggers.		
	Macbeth declares that in his rage he has killed the chamberlains.		
	Macduff seems suspicious of these new deaths, which Macbeth explains by saying		
	that his fury at Duncan's death was so powerful that he could not restrain himself.		
	Lady Macbeth suddenly faints, and both Macduff and Banquo call for someone to		
	attend to her. Malcolm and Donalbain whisper to each other that they are not		
	safe, since whoever killed their father will probably try to kill them next. Lady		
	Macbeth is taken away, while Banguo and Macbeth rally the lords to meet and		
L	mached in a taken away, while banquo and machedin rany the lorus to meet and		L

	discuss the murder. Duncan's sons resolve to flee the court. Malcolm declares that he will go south to England, and Donalbain goes to Ireland. Summary: Act 2, scene 4 Ross walks outside the castle with an old man. They discuss the strange and ominous happenings of the past few days: it is daytime, but dark outside; last Tuesday, an owl killed a falcon; and Duncan's beautiful, well-trained horses behaved wildly and ate one another. Macduff emerges from the castle and tells Ross that Macbeth has been made king by the other lords, and that he now rides to Scone to be crowned. Macduff adds that the chamberlains seem the most likely murderers, and that they may have been paid off by someone to kill Duncan. Suspicion has now fallen on the two princes, Malcolm and Donalbain, because they have fled the scene. Summary: Act 3, scene 1		
AC T 3	Macbeth enters, attired as king. He is followed by Lady Macbeth, now his queen, and the court. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask Banquo to attend the feast they will host that night. Banquo accepts their invitation and says that he plans to go for a ride on his horse for the afternoon. Banquo departs, and Macbeth dismisses his court. Macbeth meets with two men, who are murderers he has hired. He instructs them to kill Banquo and Fleance. Summary: Act 3, scene 2 Elsewhere in the castle, Macbeth tells his wife that his mind is "full of scorpions". He feels that the business that they began by killing Duncan is not yet complete	"Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck" (Macbeth to Lady Macbeth- he has planned the murder of Banquo independently of her!)	
	because there are still threats to the throne that must be eliminated. Macbeth tells his wife that he has planned "a deed of dreadful note" for Banquo and Fleance and urges her to be jovial and kind to Banquo during the evening's feast, in order to lure their next victim into a false sense of security. Summary: Act 3, scene 3 It is dusk, and the two murderers, now joined by a third, linger in a wooded park outside the palace. Banquo and Fleance approach on their horses and the murderers attack them. The murderers kill Banquo, who dies urging his son to flee and to avenge his death. Fleance escapes. The murderers leave with Banquo's body to find Macbeth and tell him what has happened.	"Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!" (Banquo to his son)	(Fleance survives)

Summary: Act 3, scene 4 Macbeth and Lady Macbeth hold a feast at their castle. Just before they all go to sit down at the table, the murderers return to let Macbeth know what has happened. When they tell him that Banquo is dead but Fleance escaped, Macbeth becomes extremely anxious.	"I had else been perfect[] But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in To saucy doubts and fears" (Macbeth on hearing that Fleance has escaped)	
The murderers leave and Macbeth joins the feast. When invited to take a seat, he says he can't because they are all taken. Unbeknown to the guests, Macbeth can see the ghost of Banquo. He is horrified and speaks to the ghost, telling it to stop	"Which of you have done this?" (Macbeth confused as he sees the ghost of Banquo)	
tormenting him. Lady Macbeth tries to calm Macbeth down, as she is angry that he is disrupting the	"Thou can't not say I did it; never shake Thy gory locks at me!" (Macbeth to the ghost)	
feast and could make people suspicious. However, the ghost enters again and Macbeth is distressed once more. Lady Macbeth makes excuses for Macbeth's behaviour, saying that he is unwell and they should leave.	"Sit, worthy friends. My Lord is often thus and has been from his youth" (Lady Macbeth tries to calm the situation)	
Macbeth resolves to go to see the witches in order to try to find out more for reassurance.	"Are you a man?" "What, quite unmanned in folly?" (Lady Macbeth questions Macbeth's masculinity/	
Summary: Act 3, scene 5 Upon the stormy heath, the witches meet with Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft. Hecate scolds them for meddling in the business of Macbeth without consulting	strength)	
her but declares that she will take over as supervisor of the mischief. She says that when Macbeth comes the next day, as they know he will, they must summon visions and spirits whose messages will fill him with a false sense of security and "draw him on to his confusion". Hecate vanishes, and the witches go to prepare their charms.	"And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss" (Macbeth toasts to Banquo, trying to ensure that people don't suspect that he is the reason Banquo did not attend the feast)	
Summary: Act 3, scene 6 That night, somewhere in Scotland, Lennox walks with another lord, discussing what has happened to the kingdom. Banquo's murder has been officially blamed	"Avaunt and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!" (Macbeth to the ghost when it reappears)	
on Fleance, who has fled. Nevertheless, both men suspect Macbeth, whom they call a "tyrant," in the murders of Duncan and Banquo. The lord tells Lennox that Macduff has gone to England, where he will join Malcolm in pleading with	"blood will have blood" (Macbeth reflects on the consequences of his actions)	
England's King Edward for aid. News of these plots has prompted Macbeth to prepare for war. Lennox and the lord express their hope that Malcolm and Macduff will be successful and that their actions can save Scotland from Macbeth.	"I will tomorrow[] to the weird sisters"(Macbeth makes a plan to know more independently of Lady Macbeth)	
	"I am in blood stepped in so far that should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er". (Macbeth reflects on the consequences of his actions and what to do next)	

AC T4	 Summary: Act 4, scene 1 In a dark cavern, a bubbling cauldron hisses and spits, and the three witches suddenly appear onstage. They circle the cauldron, chanting spells and adding bizarre ingredients to their stew—"eye of newt and toe of frog, / Wool of bat and tongue of dog" (4.1.14–15). Hecate materializes and compliments the witches on their work. One of the witches then chants: "By the pricking of my thumbs, / Something wicked this way comes" (4.1.61–62). In fulfillment of the witch's prediction, Macbeth enters. He asks the witches to reveal the truth of their prophecies to him. To answer his questions, they summon horrible apparitions, each of which offers a prediction. First, a floating head warns him to beware Macduff; Macbeth says that he has already guessed as much. Then a bloody child appears and tells him that "none of woman born / shall harm Macbeth" Next, a crowned child holding a tree tells him that he is safe until Birnam Wood moves to Dunsinane Hill. Finally, a procession of eight crowned kings walks by, the last carrying a mirror. Banquo's ghost walks at the end of the line. Macbeth demands to know the meaning of this final vision, but the witches perform a mad dance and then vanish. Lennox enters and tells Macbeth that Macduff's castle and to kill Macduff's wife and children. 	"Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble" (Witches' spell) "By the pricking of my thumbs, Something wicked this way comes" (the witches on Macbeth) "none of woman born / shall harm Macbeth"	
	 Summary: Act 4, scene 2 A group of murderers then enters Lady Macduff's castle. When one of the murderers speaks badly of Macduff, Macduff's son calls the murderer a liar, and the murderer stabs him. Lady Macduff turns and runs, and the pack of killers chases after her. They are all slaughtered. Summary: Act 4, scene 3 Ross tells Macduff that his wife and children are well. He urges Malcolm to return to his country, listing the woes that have befallen Scotland since Macbeth took the crown. Malcolm says that he will return with ten thousand soldiers lent him by the English king. Then, breaking down, Ross confesses to Macduff that Macbeth has murdered his wife and children. Macduff is crushed with grief. Malcolm urges him 	"Exit Lady Macduff crying 'Murder'"	

	to turn his grief to anger, and Macduff assures him that he will inflict revenge upon Macbeth.		
AC T5	Summary: Act 5, scene 1) Lady Macbeth sleepwalks, whilst being watched by a doctor and her maid. She sees blood on her hands which will not come off. This shows her decent into madness and shows her guilt.	"Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" "What, will these hands ne'er be clean?" "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O."	
	 Summary: Act 5, scene 2 Outside the castle, a group of Scottish lords discusses the military situation. The "tyrant," as Lennox and the other lords call Macbeth, has fortified Dunsinane Castle and is making his military preparations in a mad rage. Summary: Act 5, scene 3 Macbeth strides into the hall of Dunsinane with the doctor and his attendants, boasting proudly that he has nothing to fear from the English army or from Malcolm, since "none of woman born" can harm him and since he will rule securely "[t]ill Birnam Wood remove to Dunsinane". He calls his servant Seyton, who confirms that an army of ten thousand Englishmen approaches the castle. Macbeth insists upon wearing his armour, though the battle is still some time off. The doctor tells the king that Lady Macbeth is kept from rest by "thick-coming fancies," and Macbeth orders him to cure her of her delusions. Summary: Act 5, scene 4 In the country near Birnam Wood, Malcolm talks with the English lord Siward and his officers about Macbeth's plan to defend the fortified castle. They decide that each soldier should cut down a bough of the forest and carry it in front of him as they march to the castle, thereby disguising their numbers. Summary: Act 5, scene 5 Within the castle, a woman's cry is heard, and Seyton appears to tell Macbeth that the queen is dead. Shocked, Macbeth speaks numbly about the passage of time and declares famously that life is "a tale / Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, / Signifying nothing". A messenger enters with astonishing news: the trees of Birnam Wood are advancing toward Dunsinane. Enraged and terrified, Macbeth recalls the prophecy that said he could not die till Birnam Wood noved to Dunsinane. Resignedly, he declares that he is tired of the sun and that at least he will die fighting. Summary: Act 5, scene 6 Outside the castle, the battle commences. Malcolm orders the English soldiers to throw down their boughs and draw their swo	"The queen, my lord, is dead" "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" (Macbeth on the futility of life)	Image: Constraint of the second se

On the battlefield, Macbeth strikes those around him vigorously, insolent because		
no man born of woman can harm him. He kills Lord Siward's son and disappears in		
the fray.		
Summary: Act 5, scene 8		
Macduff emerges and searches the chaos frantically for Macbeth, whom he longs		
to kill personally. He dives again into the battle.		
Summary: Act 5, scene 9		
Malcolm and Siward emerge and enter the castle.		
Summary: Act 5, scene 10	"from his mother's womb / Untimely ripped"	
Elsewhere on the battlefield, Macbeth at last encounters Macduff. They fight, and		
when Macbeth insists that he is invincible because of the witches' prophecy,	"Yet I will try the last. Before my body, I throw my	
Macduff tells Macbeth that he was not of woman born, but rather "from his	warlike shield"(Macbeth's final words before he is	
mother's womb / Untimely ripped", meaning that he was born by caesarian. They	killed).	
exit fighting.		
Summary: Act 5, scene 11		
Malcolm and Siward walk together in the castle, which they have now effectively		
captured. Ross tells Siward that his son is dead. Macduff emerges with Macbeth's		
head in his hand and proclaims Malcolm King of Scotland. Malcolm declares that		
all his thanes will be made earls, according to the English system of peerage. They		
will be the first such lords in Scottish history. Cursing Macbeth and his "fiend-like"		
queen, Malcolm calls all those around him his friends and invites them all to see		
him crowned at Scone.		l
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Revision Activity:

Step 1: Number the events below in the correct order.

Step 2: Copy out the events into each row onto the storyboard on the next page.

Step 3: Add an image to go with each event (this could be a drawing or a symbol)

Step 4: Add a short quotation from your text or sheet to go with each.

Events from Macbeth – remember to number in the correct order

Macbeth is killed by Macduff. Malcolm becomes king.

Lady Macbeth persuades Macbeth to go through with the murder

Macbeth becomes King. Orders death of Banquo & Fleance. Banquo killed, Fleance escapes.

Macbeth returns to witches, who tell him 'no man of woman born' shall harm him

Lady Macbeth receives letter and decides to help him kill King Duncan

Lady Macbeth sleepwalks and feels guilty

Macbeth meets the witches for the first time and hears prophecies

Macbeth is haunted by Banquo's ghost

Macbeth kills Duncan

First prophecy comes true: he becomes Thane of Cawdor

Macbeth Storyboard

Event:	Event:	Event:	Event:	
Image:	Image:	Image:	Image:	
Quotation:	Quotation:	Quotation:	Quotation:	
Event:	Event:	Event:	Event:	
Image:	Image:	Image:	Image:	
Quotation:	Quotation:	Quotation:	Quotation:	
Event:	Event:			
Image:	Image:			
Quotation:	Quotation:			