

Year 10 HT2: 'Macbeth'

Context	
King James I	Shakespeare wrote 'Macbeth' during the Jacobean era (this refers to the period of time that King James I was on the throne). King James I (who ruled England and Scotland from 1603-1625) was Shakespeare's patron (he provided him with financial support in exchange for him writing plays) so the attitudes in the play are thought to have been heavily influenced by the King. King James I published "Demonology" in 1605; this book was about the dangers of the supernatural and witchcraft. The King was a supporter of the witch trials and even took part in the North Berwick witch trials in Scotland.
Supernatural/witchcraft	In England and Scotland, up until the 1700s, there was a very strong belief witches and witchcraft. It was believed that 'witches' could be found within every community and that they could inflict diseases on people, spoil crops, bring about bad weather, and perform unspeakable and detestable acts of the devil's work. The North Berwick witch trials took place in 1590 in Scotland, when a number of people from East Lothian were accused of witchcraft. They ran for two years and implicated seventy people. This was the first major witchcraft persecution in Scotland.
Divine Right of Kings	The Divine Right of Kings originated in the Middle Ages. Any attempt to remove the king was thought to be the worst of crimes: it was believed that to kill a king was to go against God and was therefore sacrilegious, and against the natural order.
The Gunpowder Plot	In 1605, a group of Catholic conspirators plotted to assassinate King James I, planting explosives in the House of Lords during the opening of parliament. They hid kegs full of gunpowder in the cellars beneath the chamber where the king and the rest of the political elite would assemble. Enough powder was stored to completely destroy the building and kill everyone present. One of the conspirators, Guy Fawkes, was tasked with igniting this huge bomb. The plot was uncovered just 12 hours before parliament was due to open. However, the plot meant that King James I was keen to ward off any further attempts to take his throne.
Attitudes toward women	In the Jacobean era, women belonged to their fathers (or their brothers if their father died), and then to their husbands. Women could not own property of their own. Women had very few rights and were viewed as subservient to men: they were only provided with a very basic education and often this was centred on mastering tasks within the home. Women were not given the opportunity to work and they were not allowed on the stage. All the female parts in plays at the time were played by boys whose voices hadn't broken yet (the apprentices) and therefore the portrayal of women is widely regarded as being very limited.

Language/structural techniques	Definition	Example
Pathetic fallacy	A type of personification where emotions are given to a setting, an object or the weather.	"The night has been unruly. Where we lay, Our chimneys were blown down and, as they say, Lamentings heard i' th' air." - Lennox describing the night of Duncan's death, A3 S2.
Symbolism	When an object represents an idea that is much deeper and more significant.	"Is this a dagger which I see before me/ the handle towards my hand?...Or a dagger of the mind, a false creation, Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?" - Macbeth, A2 S1.
Personification	Describing an inanimate object as having human feelings.	"Stars, hide your fires; let not light see my black and deep desires." - Macbeth, A1 S4.
Metaphor	A descriptive technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.	"There's daggers in men's smiles. The near in blood, The nearer bloody." - Donalbain, A2 S3.
Simile	A descriptive technique that compares one thing with another, usually using 'as' or 'like'.	"Look like th' innocent flower, But be the serpent under it" - Lady Macbeth, A1 S5.
Foreshadowing	When the writer hints what is going to happen later on in the text.	"The instruments of darkness tell us truths, Win us with honest trifles, to betray 's In deepest consequence" - Banquo to Macbeth, A1 S3.
Superlative	An adjective/ adverb that indicates the most of something.	"Te bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor: In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!" - Ross to Macbeth and Banquo, A1 S3.
Intensifier	A word, especially an adverb or adjective, that is used to add emphasis to another adjective, verb, or adverb i.e. <i>so, very, really</i> .	"So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe." - Captain to Duncan, A1 S2
Minimiser	A word or phrase that is used to make another adjective, verb or adverb sound lesser i.e. <i>a bit, some</i> .	"A little water clears us of this deed: How easy is it, then! Your constancy Hath left you unattended" - LM to Macbeth, A2 S2.
Imperative	A sentence that is a command.	"Come, you spirits...unsex me here" - LM soliloquy, A1 S5.
Exclamatory	A sentence that expresses a heightened emotion. They end with an exclamation mark	"Out, damned spot! Out, I say" - LM, A5 S1
Listing	When the writer includes several words/ phrases/ ideas, one after the other.	"The castle of Macduff I will surprise...give to th' edge o' th' sword/His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls" - Macbeth, A4 S1.
Repetition	When a word/ phrase is noticeably repeated throughout a sentence/ paragraph/ whole text.	"Unnatural deeds, Do breed unnatural troubles. Infected minds/To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets. More needs she the divine than the physician" - LM's Doctor, A5 S1.
Imagery	A technique in which the author appeals to the senses i.e. seeing, hearing, touching.	"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather The multitudinous seas incarnadine, Making the green one red" - Macbeth, A2 S2.
Foil	A character that exaggerates the opposing qualities of another character.	Banquo's truthful and discerning character is used as a foil to Macbeth's deceitful and naïve character.

Key terms	Definition
Tragic hero	A seemingly noble character whose actions lead to their downfall.
Peripeteia	The tragic hero's reversal of fortune/ downfall.
Soliloquy	A speech given by a character whilst alone to express their thoughts to the audience (not the other characters).
Hubris	Excessive pride which leads to a downfall.
Tragedy	A genre of play that focuses on the downfall of the main character.
Anagnorisis	A tragic hero's realisation that they have fallen.
Hamartia	A fatal flaw that leads to tragic hero's downfall.
Motif	A recurring idea/ image throughout a text.

Themes	
Ambition: Macbeth's ruthless seeking of power is presented as his ultimate flaw (hamartia). Shakespeare presents ambition as the gateway to deceit and evil. Shakespeare suggests that ambition can manifest itself in different ways: it can make a person ruthless and violent. It can override all morality. It can result in one becoming detached from oneself and from others: Macbeth exchanges his soul for a fleeting moment of power, and thus, his ambition is punished.	Violence: Shakespeare's portrayal of violence is often contradictory: it sustains and ends Duncan's reign; however, it also seizes, holds and ends Macbeth's.
Deception (reality vs. appearance): Shakespeare presents deception (lying) as one of the products of ambition. Deceiving oneself and deceiving others is a sign of moral decline. Shakespeare also suggests that everyone is capable of deception but that those in power are particularly vulnerable.	Loyalty: Shakespeare suggests that loyalty is often vulnerable and ultimately is lost as a result of ambition. Shakespeare highlights the importance of being loyal to king and country, as well as being loyal to peers.
Guilt: Shakespeare suggests that ambition ultimately leads to guilt and that this eventually results in inner torment and madness.	Masculinity/ gender: Shakespeare suggests that 'masculinity' can encourage violent and reckless behaviour and that ideas surrounding gender can be used as tools for manipulation.
Nature and the supernatural: Shakespeare uses the supernatural to help the audience to understand the characters' secret ambitions. Shakespeare also uses the supernatural to encourage the characters to make irresponsible decisions. Shakespeare suggests that the supernatural are a catalyst for revealing characters' innermost desires.	Fate: Shakespeare suggests that Macbeth becomes so consumed with his own 'fate' that he fails to predict the consequences of his ruthless actions. Shakespeare suggests that the supernatural use 'fate' to manipulate Macbeth.

HT2 'Macbeth' - Vocabulary List

Vocabulary	Definition	Example	Own sentence
1. Prophecy	Verb: predicting what is going to happen.	He <u>prophecied</u> to them in secret all the happenings that would take place on their journey.	
2. Dichotomy	Noun: difference between two completely opposite ideas or things.	There is often a dichotomy between what politicians say and what they do.	
3. Deceitful	Adjective: intentionally misleading others.	They should feel moral pressure to eliminate all deceitful behaviour.	
4. Manifest	Verb: to be shown through signs or actions.	The workers chose to manifest their dissatisfaction in a series of strikes.	
5. Manipulative	Adjective: using emotive/ devious techniques control others to your own advantage.	His manipulative behaviour resulted in him being ostracised from the group.	
6. Sacrilegious	Treating something holy or important without respect.	It would seem sacrilegious to introduce anything unnatural into this sacred land.	
7. Corroborate	Verb: something acting as evidence for another idea.	Her initial concerns about him had been corroborated by his recently selfish behaviour.	
8. Ambivalent	Adjective: to have mixed feelings towards something.	He felt ambivalent about leaving home.	
9. Erratic	Adjective: behaving in a way that is not regular, consistent or expected.	Their behaviour was erratic: sometimes they were amenable, sometimes they were defiant.	
10. Antagonise	Verb: to anger someone enough for them to dislike you.	They deliberately, repeatedly antagonised him so that he would feel obliged to leave.	
11. Inherent	Adjective: existing as natural part of something.	She was inherently kind and considerate.	

12. Taboo	Noun: an action or word that is avoided for religious or social reasons.	The desire to kill for power is a taboo concept.	
13. Facilitate	Verb: to make something easier to do.	It is wrong to facilitate the immoral behaviour of others.	
14. Subvert	Verb: to go against something that is well established.	The character of Lady Macbeth initially subverts gender stereotypes.	
15. Usurp	Verb: to take control/a position of power without having the right to do so.	The student attempted to usurp the authority of the teacher.	
16. Hierarchy	Noun: a system in which people are arranged according to their importance.	A new management hierarchy was created within the company.	
17. Sceptical	Adjective: doubting what others accept to be true.	She was sceptical of newspaper's sensationalised headlines.	
18. Duplicitous	Adjective: intentionally hiding true feelings behind false words/ actions.	They were warned of her duplicitous and dishonest nature.	
19. Audacious	Adjective: showing a willingness to take risks or offend people.	The decision to leave in the midst of the troubles was audacious and ill-judged.	
20. Zealous	Adjective: showing great passion/ enthusiasm towards something.	The class were zealous in their study of Shakespeare.	