

Macbeth – Knowledge Organiser

Plot	Punctuation		Grammar		
<p>Act 1 – This Act opens with the three Weird Sisters setting up the entire theme of the play: Fair is foul and foul is fair. A war is taking place against Scotland (the setting of this play) and Norway. Scotland is victorious due to the valiant efforts of Macbeth. The traitorous Thane of Cawdor is captured and executed. King Duncan decides to reward Macbeth with the title of Thane of Cawdor to show his gratitude. Three Weird Sisters confront Macbeth and Banquo, telling Macbeth that he will become Thane of Cawdor and eventually king. Macbeth soon learns of his new title fulfilling the first part of the prophecy and sends word to his wife. King Duncan plans on staying the night at Macbeth's home. Lady Macbeth receives the news and immediately plots the death of King Duncan so her husband will be king. Lady Macbeth manipulates Macbeth into following her plans. By the end of Act I, Macbeth is determined to follow the plan.</p> <p>Act 2 - Macbeth again has some doubts (and visions) but he talks himself into following through with the murder. Macbeth is so scared Lady Macbeth must finish the rest of the plan by wiping blood on the drunk guards. The next morning, Macduff and Lennox arrive at Macbeth's and Macduff discovers the dead body of King Duncan. The guards are immediately suspects and Macbeth kills them. Malcolm and Donalbain, the King's sons, flee the castle because they are afraid.</p> <p>Act 3 - Banquo begins to suspect Macbeth for the murder of King Duncan and Macbeth in turn feels that Banquo will reveal that it was he that killed the King. Therefore, Macbeth sends out some thugs to murder Banquo and his son, Fleance. Banquo is murdered, but Fleance escapes. Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Lennox, Ross, and other lords attend a banquet. The ghost of Banquo presents itself to Macbeth. Macbeth begins to rant and rave, making the other guests uneasy. Lady Macbeth tries to cover up the situation by saying Macbeth is prone to fits. By the end of this Act, we learn that Macduff has not attended the banquet because he has gone to England because he is suspicious of Macbeth.</p> <p>Act 4 - Macbeth confronts the three Weird Sisters and they show him more visions. The visions lead Macbeth to believe that he cannot be killed by any man, giving him a false sense of security. He then plans to send murderers to the castle of Macduff (who is in England) in order to kill his family. Meanwhile, Macduff is in England begging Malcolm to return to Scotland and seize the throne from Macbeth who has become a tyrant. Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty to Scotland and himself and after being satisfied with Macduff's responses, he agrees to wage war against Macbeth. Malcolm's uncle will also aid in the attack.</p> <p>Act 5 -Lady Macbeth has finally gone mad with guilt over the murders. The once strong and ruthless woman is now a scared child. She continually sleepwalks, whilst trying to clean her hands of blood. Doctors are unable to help her. Some of the Scottish lords are discussing Macbeth's state of mind and have come to the conclusion that they will help Malcolm and Macduff fight against Macbeth. Of course, Macbeth isn't really concerned because he believes the prophecy ensures that he cannot be killed by any man born of woman. Macbeth soon confronts Macduff and learns that Macduff was not born naturally. Macbeth and Macduff fight and the natural order is restored by the end of the play.</p>	Type	Example	Type	Example	
		Listing comma	Macbeth is brutal, violent, bloody and feared.	Main clause	Because of his actions, Macbeth was killed.
		Parenthetic comma	Lady Macbeth, who is mad, kills herself.	Dynamic Verbs	His sword carved the enemy open.
		Semi colon	Lady Macbeth is like a witch; she called on evil spirits.	Active voice	He chopped his head off.
		Colon	Macbeth got what he deserved: his head chopped off.	Passive voice	His head was chopped off by him
		Brackets for stage directions	[aside] Two truths are told... [exuent]	Homophone	Where/wear There/their/they're
		Terminology	Definition	Example	
		Soliloquy	An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.	“Glamis thou art, and Cawdor. Thou shalt be what thou art promised...” (1.5)	
		Aside	A remark or passage in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but is supposed to be unheard by the other characters in the play.	Macbeth [aside]: “The Prince of Cumberland. That is step on which I must fall down, or else o'er leap”. (1.4)	
		Subverting Gender Stereotype	When the character acts in a way that challenges the usual gender attributes.	Lady Macbeth: “Unsex me here and fill me from the crown to toe-top with direst cruelty”. (1.5)	
	Semantic field	A group of words, which relate to a common theme or motif.	Semantic field: Death Murder, suicide, weapon, poison.		
	Metaphor	A figure of speech, which is not literal.	“...to full o' the milk of human kindness”		
	Dramatic irony	When the audience knows information the characters do not.	Macbeth having Banquo murdered.		
	Foreshadowing	To give an indication of what is to come.	A clue or hint is given at the start of a novel and reappears throughout.		

Key Characters		Key themes		Top 10 quotes to learn
Macbeth	A loyal warrior who becomes duplicitous as he becomes obsessed with the witches' prophecies of power.	Ambition	Lady Macbeth	1. Witches: Fair is foul and foul is fair (1.1) 2. Banquo: to win us to our harm the instruments of darkness tell us truths. Win us with honest trifles, to betray 's in deepest consequence. (1.3) 3. Macbeth: Stars, hide your fires/Let not light see my black and deep desires (1.4) 4. Lady Macbeth: Come, you spirits... Unsex me here (1.5) 5. Macbeth: 'this Duncan/Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been/ so clear in his great office. (1.7) 6. Lady Macbeth: When you durst do it, then you were a man (1.7) 7. Macbeth: Is this a dagger I see before me? (2.1) 8. Macbeth: Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife (3.2) 9. Macbeth: Blood will have blood (3.4) 10. Lady M: All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand (5.1) Out damned spot (5.1)
Lady Macbeth	Macbeth's wife who drives his ambition in the beginning but loses her control by the end.	Fate and Free Will	Macbeth v Witches v choices	
Banquo	Macbeth's close friend and ally who also receives prophecies from the witches.	Good and Evil	Macduff v Macbeth	
Fleance	Banquo's son who represents innocence and justice.	The Supernatural	Witches & Lady Macbeth	
Duncan	King of Scotland at the beginning of the play who is portrayed as a strong and respected leader.	Appearance and Reality	"look like the innocent flower but be the serpent..."	
Malcolm	Duncan's oldest son and next in line to the throne. Joins the English army to defeat Macbeth at the end of the play.	Light and Darkness	"Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark"	
Donablain	Duncan's youngest son disappears (to Ireland) after Duncan's murder, but never returns.	Guilt	"Out damned spot"	
Macduff	Macbeth's antagonist: A brave warrior who is loyal to Duncan and is consistently suspicious of Macbeth.	Gender	Lady Macbeth challenges and controls Macbeth.	

Reading Success Criteria – analytical response

- interpret the key ideas that the Shakespeare is communicating through his text? (What?)
- explore and develop explicit and implicit techniques that create meaning for the audience? (How? For what effect?)
- identify Shakespeare's techniques such as soliloquy and pathetic fallacy, and explore their effect on the audience?
- explore and comment on Shakespeare's intention within the text?
- Can I respond personally to the text and suggest alternative interpretations?
- use evidence selectively to support/justify my ideas?
- explore and explain the use of techniques/conventions?
- explore how Shakespeare uses language to develop/create tone and atmosphere?
- Explore and analyse quotations and key words to write a lot about a little.
- develop my ideas fully and fluently?
- interpret the key ideas that Shakespeare is communicating through his text? (What?)
- explore contextual ideas from time of written & set and comment on attitudes towards gender etc.

Success Criteria - Writing a review

- use devices/language appropriate to purpose and audience
- your point of view and who you are is clear
- ideas are developed in a variety of ways
- paragraphs are used to effectively structure ideas
- vocabulary is used appropriately and adventurously
- a range of sentence structures are used for effect
- a range of punctuation is used accurately and for effect
- spelling is mostly correct
- control of tense and agreement is secure
- Work is technically accurate and proof read thoroughly
- GAP is followed throughout the piece of writing.
- your opinion, as well as others, is included to persuade the reader.