

Macbeth—William Shakespeare (YEAR 7)

Terminology

Themes

Ambitious— a strong determination to achieve something

Manipulative—being able to influence or control a situation

Prophecy— a prediction of what will happen in the future

Supernatural— something beyond the understanding of science or nature i.e. magic

Noble— belonging to the aristocracy

Soliloquy— speaking your thoughts out loud regardless of the listener











Regicide— the action of killing a King



Context

About William Shakespeare : Shakespeare (1564—1616) is considered by many to be the greatest and influential writers of the English language having written famous plays such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*. He is credited with introducing nearly 3,000 words to the English language. In addition, his works are said to be the second most often quoted after the Bible.

Historical context about the play: Written in 1606, *Macbeth* contains a strong political theme throughout, with the idea that excessive ambition has terrible consequences. Shakespeare enjoyed a close relationship with King James I and it is thought that in focusing on Macbeth as a figure from Scottish history, he was paying homage to the King's lineage.

Word	Part of speech	Definition	Examples	Synonyms	Antonyms	Image
ambition	Noun	a strong desire to do or achieve something	Macbeth's ambition is to become king of Scotland.	aspiration goal objective		
children	Noun	plural of child; a young human	She had 3 children.	juvenile lad youngster	adult senior	
conscience	Noun	the sense that allows a person to decide between right and wrong actions	Jim doesn't like to throw away food as his conscience reminds him that some people don't have much to eat.	moral sense shame duty		
courage	Noun	the ability to do things which might be frightening	Tom didn't have the courage to ask Mary out.	heroism daring bravery grit	cowardice timidity wimpiness	
deceit	Noun	behaviour that is deliberately intended to make people believe something which is not true	I can't take the lies and deceit anymore.	deception fraud cheating	openness serenity honesty	
femininity	Noun	the trait of behaving in ways considered typical for women	Long hair was traditionally regarded as a sign of femininity.	womanliness womanhood	masculinity manhood	
freewill	Adjective	freely given or done; voluntary	There is the opportunity to give a freewill donation if you wish.	willing intentional unasked	compelled coerced forced	
gender	Noun	the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed	Discrimination on the basis of gender is not allowed.			
guilt	Noun	an unhappy feeling you get when you think you've done something wrong	They felt a lot of guilt about her death.	blame regret remorse	innocence	
hierarchy	Noun	a series that is graded or ranked	I listed my goals in a hierarchy from most important to least important.	pecking order level ladder	nonhierarchical unranked	

Key Quotations

"Fair is foul and foul is fair" Act 1 Scene 1

"Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under 't." Act 1, Scene 5

"Yet do I fear thy nature, It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness" Act 1, Sc.5

"Is this a dagger which I see before me?" Act 2, Scene 1

"Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble." Act 4, Sc.1

"Here's the smell of the blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand."

