

Macbeth—William Shakespeare (YEAR 7)

Terminology

- 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



Themes

- Ambition
- Good Vs Evil
- Appearance Vs Reality
- Order Vs Chaos
- The Supernatural
- Loyalty and Betrayal



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.

Key Quotations

MACBETH

- “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.”
- “Out, damned spot! Out, I say!” Act 5, Scene 1