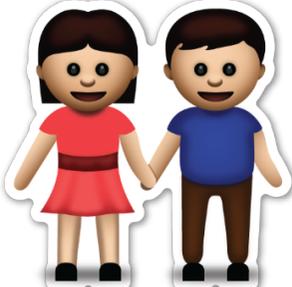


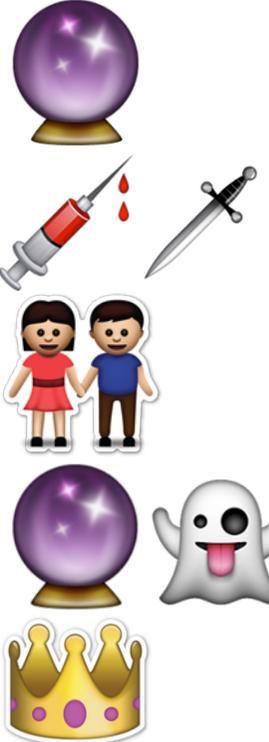
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S  
**MACBETH**



STUDENT SUPPORT BOOKLET

Theme/Motif	Key
Ambition	
Prophecy	
Guilt	
Presentation of femininity/masculinity	

False Appearances	
Murder/Violence	
Religious/moral conflict	
Supernatural	
Blood	

Act	WHAT HAPPENS?	KEY QUOTES	KEY THEMES/MOTIFS
<b>Act 1</b>	<p><b>Summary: Act 1, scene 1</b> Three witches make plans to meet Macbeth.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 1, scene 2</b> King Duncan of Scotland asks a wounded captain for news about the Scots' battle with the Irish invaders, who are led by the rebel Macdonwald. The captain describes how brave Macbeth is in battle. King Duncan gives orders for The Thane of Cawdor to be executed for treason. He says he wants Macbeth to be Thane of Cawdor.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 1, scene 3</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>"Fair is foul, and foul is fair" (witches)</p> <p>"with his brandished steel, Which smoked with bloody execution [...] he unseamed him from the name to th'chaps" (Captain to Duncan)</p> <p>"All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter" (witch's prophesy)</p>	

**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.

**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 sure that this prophesy comes true quickly- in other words, to kill King Duncan.

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 so that she can do the bloody deeds necessary to seize the crown. Macbeth arrives and she tells him the plan.

**Summary: Act 1, scene 7**

Macbeth has doubts about killing King Duncan. 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.

"I do fear thy nature,  
It is too full o'th'milk of human kindness  
To catch the nearest way." (Lady Macbeth about Macbeth)

"Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here"

"fill me from the crown to the toe topfull  
Of direst cruelty"

"Make thick my blood,  
Stop up th'access and passage to remorse"

"Come to my women's breasts  
And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers"

"Look like th'innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't"(Lady Macbeth to Macbeth)

"This even-handed justice  
Commends th'ingredience of our poisoned chalice  
To our own lips."(Macbeth's moral conflict about killing Duncan)

"He's here in double trust" (Macbeth on how he is being duplicitous in letting Duncan trust him)

"his virtues  
Will pleader 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

Banquo and his son Fleance are at Macbeth's castle. Macbeth enters, and Banquo 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 hand and its tip aiming him toward Duncan. Macbeth tries to grasp the weapon 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 their prayers before going back to sleep. When they said "amen," he tried to say it 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 sleep".

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 be as cowardly as him. Macbeth says "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?" Lady Macbeth returns and tells him "A little water clears us of this deed."

### 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 Banquo and Macbeth rally the lords to meet and

"Is this a dagger I see before me[...]"

"Sleep no more, / Macbeth does murder sleep".

"Infirm of purpose!" (Lady Macbeth to Macbeth when she sees he has brought the daggers)

"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?"

"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)



(vision of dagger)





**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.

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 tormenting him.

Lady Macbeth tries to calm Macbeth down, as she is angry that he is disrupting the 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.

Macbeth resolves to go to see the witches in order to try to find out more for reassurance.

**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 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.

**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 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 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 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)

"Which of you have done this?" (Macbeth confused as he sees the ghost of Banquo)

"Thou can't not say I did it; never shake Thy gory locks at me!" (Macbeth to the ghost)

"Sit, worthy friends. My Lord is often thus and has been from his youth" (Lady Macbeth tries to calm the situation)

"Are you a man?"  
"What, quite unmanned in folly?"  
(Lady Macbeth questions Macbeth's masculinity/strength)

"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)

"Avaunt and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee!" (Macbeth to the ghost when it reappears)

"blood will have blood" (Macbeth reflects on the consequences of his actions)

"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)







	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 5, scene 8</b> Macduff emerges and searches the chaos frantically for Macbeth, whom he longs to kill personally. He dives again into the battle.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 5, scene 9</b> Malcolm and Siward emerge and enter the castle.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 5, scene 10</b> Elsewhere on the battlefield, Macbeth at last encounters Macduff. They fight, and when Macbeth insists that he is invincible because of the witches' prophecy, Macduff tells Macbeth that he was not of woman born, but rather "from his mother's womb / Untimely ripped", meaning that he was born by caesarian. They exit fighting.</p> <p><b>Summary: Act 5, scene 11</b> 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.</p>	<p>"from his mother's womb / Untimely ripped"</p> <p>"Yet I will try the last. Before my body, I throw my warlike shield" (Macbeth's final words before he is killed).</p>	
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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.

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#### Events from Macbeth – remember to number in the correct order

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- 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
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## 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:		
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