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English 11

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Macbeth Essay

In the play Macbeth, Lady Macbeth's ambition and manipulation play a huge and dramatic role in this play, also tempting Macbeth toward his very destructive actions, leading to their major downfall. The three witches are introduced, they talk/discuss a meeting with Macbeth. Macbeth and Banquo are introduced as super brave soldiers in King Ducan's army. Shortly after a success, Macbeth meets all of the witches, who tell him who will become king. Lady Macbeth's ambition and manipulation play a huge role in tempting Macbeth toward his dangerous actions, leading to their downfall.

Macbeth's ambition is triggered by the witches' prophecies which mainly predicts that he will become king of Scotland. When Macbeth first heard this, he was unsure about killing King Duncan to accomplish power. Throughout this play, his ambition grows stronger when Lady Macbeth encourages him with the murder. Later on, Macbeth does let the encouragement get to him and murder King Duncan after hearing what Lady Macbeth had to say about it. After this murder happened Macbeth felt so guilty and evil about it.

Lady Macbeth tells her husband that the king has dined and that he has been asking for Macbeth. Macbeth says that he no longer plans to kill Duncan. He had a plan, but was super worried what would happen if it failed. When Duncan was sleeping Lady Macbeth gives the

guards (to Duncan's room) wine to make them intoxicated, and that way Macbeth can murder Duncan. After all of this, the plan went through.

Lady Macbeth's ambition is even more noticeable from the second she hears about the witches' prediction. It was more so Lady Macbeth's idea to kill Duncan, Macbeth was very skeptical. But as the play went on, she then felt terrible. Her sleepwalking in Act five, Scene one, where she tries quickly to wash off the bloodstains off of her hands also shows how she felt during this scene. She was still happy after Macbeth became king of Scotland.

After Duncan's death, Scotland endured strange things starting happening. First was the storm, many chimneys were blown down, and it almost seemed like there was an earthquake occurring during this terrible event. Second was the noises, Lady Macbeth hears an owl howling and crickets chirping noises close to dark. And third was a falcon being killed by an owl and Duncan's horses going insane.

Banquo was Macbeth's best friend, he was loyal to Macbeth. Macbeth got a prophecy from the Witches that drove him worried about Banquo and Macbeth's relationship, although Macbeth kept it to himself. But then the prophecy said that Banquo will have a line upon the throne and that drove Macbeth mad and worried, so Macbeth hired 3 murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance, so that Macbeth would still become king. The murderers killed Banquo although Fleance got away the same night Macbeth was having a celebration party with tons of people and he was hallucinating Banquo's ghost and everyone thought he was going crazy.

Macbeth saw Macduff as a threat, Macbeth commanded the murder of Macduff's family to punish Macduff for going to England, because he knew that Macduff was suspicious and planning against him. Even though Macduff's wife said that Macduff was already dead to her

because he left his family with no explanation. Macbeth became very suspicious and paranoid of Macduff after he discovered Duncan's body. Macbeth receives a message from the witches saying "beware Macduff". Later on, he then tells the murders after being given the second set of prophecies from the witches. The witches told Macbeth that no man born of a woman could hurt him. Then Macduff plans to kill everyone that has to do with Macbeth.

Before Duncan's murder, Macbeth is very loving and caring towards Lady Macbeth.

Their relationship starts off with trust and lots of love, and respect. Macbeth genuinely values her ambition, and her talent. Macbeth talks about the murder with Lady Macbeth, and then their relationship quickly took a turn. Lady Macbeth felt so much guilt to the point where she committed suicide. As time went on Macbeth tried his hardest to forget it and move past it but it was hard.

Macduff kills Macbeth, after all of these tragedy events occurred. And now after the death of Macbeth, he cuts off his head, and brings it to Malcolm. This indicates to prove that the death of Macbeth is real. He murders him to "get back" at Macduff. Later on after that event happened Macduff then came guilty for it. Macduff joins Malcolm in England to set a plan to take back the throne. And then after Macduff gets revenge later on in the story Malcolm becomes king of Scotland.

Shakespeare, Willam. Macbeth. Edward Blount and William Jaggard. 1923

 $\underline{https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/macbeth/read/}$

 $\underline{https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/macbeth/character/whoswho}$