### **AMBITION**



### **VIOLENCE**

### **SUPERNATURAL**

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#### **KEY MOMENTS**

- 1.3. Witches plant seeds of ambition in Macbeth's mind.
- 1.5. Lady Macbeth fears Macbeth lacks ruthless ambition.
- 1.7. Lady Macbeth gives Macbeth the final push to fulfil his ambitions.
- 3.1/2 Macbeth's ambition leads to the murder of Banquo.

### **CONTEXT**

The downfall of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is caused by their fatal flaw of ambition.
Shakespeare's purpose could be to show the corrupting effects of ambition on individuals.

### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

- 1.5. LM 'Unsex me here'
  1.5. LM 'Art not without ambition, but without the illness should attend it'
  1.7. MAC 'I have no spur to
- 1.7. MAC 'I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition'
- 3.1. MAC 'Our fears in Banquo Stick deep...under him my genius is rebuked'
- 3.2. MAC 'We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it'
  3.2. 'O, full of scorpions is my

#### **KEY MOMENTS**

- 1.5. Lady Macbeth calls on evil spirits.
- 1.7. Lady Macbeth's discusses the idea of killing her children rather than break a promise
- 4.3. Macduff discovers his family have been murdered.
- 5.3. Macbeth's violence spirals out of control.

### CONTEXT

Shakespeare shows violent acts lead to more violent acts. After using violence to become king, Macbeth must continue to use violence to keep his crown until violence is all he has left.

### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

- 1.5. LM 'take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers'
  1.7. LM 'I have given suck, and know how tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me: I would, while it was smiling in my face,
- have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums, And dash'd the brains out'
- 4.3. MD 'All my pretty ones'
  4.3. MD 'Macbeth is ripe for shaking'
- 5.3.MAC 'I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd' 5.3. MAC 'Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it'.

### **KEY MOMENTS**

- 1.3. Witches first meeting
- 2.1. Macbeth's dagger hallucination
- 3.4. Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost
- 4.1. Macbeth returns to witches
- 5.8. Macduff breaks Macbeth's charmed life.

### CONTEXT

Elizabethans believed in the supernatural. Shakespeare uses the supernatural to create a haunting effect which leads the audience into thinking Macbeth is possessed by evil forces.

### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

- 1.3. MAC 'Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair'
- 2.1. MAC 'Is this a dagger which I see before me'
- 2.1. MAC 'Art thou but A dagger of the mind, a false creation, Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?'
- 3.4. MAC 'Avaunt! and quit my sight! let the earth hide thee!'
- 4.1. MAC 'Banquo smiles upon me'
- 5.8.MAC 'I bear a charmed life'

### **COURAGE**

### DECEIT

smiles'

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### **GUILT**



#### **KEY MOMENTS**

- 1.2.Macbeth's bravery is praised1.7. Lady Macbeth questions
- Macbeth's courage.
- 2.3. Macbeth defends killing of Duncan's servants
- 4.3. Macduff's must show courage to avenge Macbeth
- 5.3. Macbeth's courage comes from the belief he is invincible. 5.8. Macbeth bravely fights.

### CONTEXT

Shakespeare's play questions the idea of courage: is courage taking what you want no matter the cost? Or is it having the strength to restrain desires (Banquo)?

### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

mind, dear wife!

- 1.2. SERGEANT 'Brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name'
- 1.7. MAC 'I dare do all that may become a man'
- 1.7. LM 'Screw your courage to the sticking-place'
- 2.3. MAC 'That had a heart to love and in that heart courage to makes love known?'
- 4.3. MAL 'Dispute it like a man'
  5.3. MAC I will not be afraid of
  death and bane, till Birnam forest
  come to Dunsinane.
- 5.3.MAC 'I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd'
- 5.8. MAC 'Bear-like I must fight the course'

### KEY MOMENTS

- 1.3. Macbeth's initial thoughts
- 1.5. Lady Macbeth's plans
- 1.7. Plotting Duncan's murder
- 2.1. Dagger soliloquy
- 2.3. After Duncan's death
- 3.1/2. Plotting Banquo's murder
- 5.8. Macbeth discovers the witches have deceived him.

### CONTEXT

Shakespeare suggests false appearances are unnatural and not fitting for a king. Macbeth's false appearances help him to become king only to later be a victim of false appearances when he discovers the witches have tricked him.

#### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

- 1.3. MAC Stars, hide your fires; Let not light see my black and deep desires'
- 1.5. LM 'Look like th' innocent flower,. But be the serpent under 't' 1.7. MAC 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know' 2.3. DON: 'There's daggers in men's
- 3.1. MAC Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time... for't must be done to-night,
- 3.2. MAC 'Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck'
  5.8. MD 'Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped'

#### **KEY MOMENTS**

- 2.2. Macbeth feels guilt after murdering Duncan.
- 3.2. Macbeth's nightmares reveal his guilt.
- 3.4. Seeing Banquo's ghost is a symbol of Macbeth's guilt.
- 5.1. Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking and insanity are evidence of her guilt.

### CONTEXT:

Shakespeare uses blood, sleeplessness and hallucinations as symbols to explore how guilt manifests itself in the characters. Shakespeare shows that guilt is an inevitable and unavoidable consequence of committing unnatural acts.

#### **KEY QUOTATIONS**

- 2.2.MAC 'This is a sorry sight'
  2.2. MAC 'Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?'
- 2.2. MAC 'Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep'
- 3.2. MAC 'Affliction of terrible dreams that shake us nightly'
- 3.4. MAC 'The table's full'
- 3.4. MAC 'Never shake thy gory locks at me.'
- 5.1. LM 'Out, damned spot!'
- 5.1. LM 'The thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now? What, will these hands ne'er be clean?'
- 5.1. LM 'All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.'

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