

Macbeth		Lady Macbeth		Duncan	
Conflicted, brave, guilty, naïve, violent, tyrannical, malleable, greedy, haunted, egocentric		Manipulative, callous, cowardly, ambitious, wicked, deceitful, scheming, afflicted, overwhelmed		Naïve, respected, honourable, admirable, trusting, generous, benevolent, virtuous, fair, just	
1.2. ‘ brave Macbeth-- Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel	The first description of Macbeth establishes him as a noble and respected soldier. This honour will all be destroyed by the end of the play. The fact fortune was on the side of Norway and he had to disdain fortune establishes Macbeth as one who'll battle fate throughout the play.	1.5. ‘ Unsex me here	Lady Macbeth's imperative asks the spirits to rid her of her femininity so that she can commit the brutal murder of Duncan without remorse.	1.4. ‘ He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.	Duncan is presented as a naïve king. He placed ‘absolute’ trust in his thane only to be betrayed. His mistaken trust is betrayed again by the person he chooses to become the new Thane of Cawdor: Macbeth.
1.4. ‘ Stars hide your fires let not light see my black and deep desires	At this moment in the play, Macbeth has learned that Malcolm has been chosen to be next in line to the throne; he realises he must act out his evil desires to become king. In the metaphor he asks help from the stars to hide his evil actions.	1.5. ‘ look like th' innocent flower, but be the serpent under't	In this simile Lady Macbeth is advising Macbeth on how to disguise his evil intentions in front of Duncan. Flowers obviously connote beauty while snakes connote sin.	1.6. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air nimble and sweetly recommends itself unto our gentle senses.	Duncan's benevolence is evident here. The positive adjectives he uses to describe Macbeth's castle reveals his inability to detect Macbeth's evil plans. The positive language sharply contrasts with the horror that is about to occur in the castle.
3.2. ‘ O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!	Animal imagery is used here to highlight how both his guilty conscience and his fears about Banquo's son's stealing his crowning are stinging him.	1.7. ‘ I have given suck... dashed the brains out	To manipulate Macbeth, she uses shocking language to suggest she would kill her own baby rather than go back on a promise. It is also implied she has had children. The fact she is childless is important later in the play.	1.7. ‘ His virtues. Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued	In this simile, Macbeth accepts Duncan's noble qualities and worries nature will react loudly to the murder to expose his guilt.
3.2. ‘ Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck	Macbeth plans the murder of Banquo without telling his wife. It shows the growth of his alienating ambition or his desire to protect his wife (who he endearingly calls ‘chuck’) from further bloodshed.	3.2. ‘ What's done is done	She attempts to help Macbeth come to terms with the murder and move on. She repeats these words in Act 5 when guilt takes hold.	2.3. Here lay Duncan, his silver skin laced with his golden blood; and his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature	Duncan's royal and precious nature is conveyed through the adjectives ‘silver’ and ‘golden’. The idea that the regicide is unnatural is emphasised through the simile. The phrase ‘gash'd stabs’ uses ghastly imagery to convey the horror of the crime.
5.1. ‘ Out, out brief candle	Macbeth cold reaction to news of his wife's death shows he is numb to emotion at this point in the play. He realises life is futile and has no purpose.	5.1. ‘ Out damned spot! Out I say!	The abrupt exclamatory imperatives show her obsession with washing away her sins while ‘damned’ connotes hell.	3.2. ‘ Duncan is in his grave; After life's fitful fever he sleeps well	Macbeth contrasts his diseased state of mind with Duncan's peacefulness following his death. Macbeth envies the serenity Duncan has achieved in death.
Witches		Banquo		Macduff	
Paradoxical, double-dealing, diabolical, contradictory, conflicting, menacing, sinister, prophetic		Cynical, suspicious, loyal, discerning, curious, concerned, questioning, worthy, virtuous		Fierce, loyal, passionate, aggressive, courageous, honourable, determined	
1.1. ‘ Fair is foul and foul is fair	This confusing paradox is said by the witches at the start to establish how the play will go against nature and question our notions of what is real and what is false.	1.3. ‘ If you can look into the seeds of time and say which grain will grow and which will not, Speak then to me	Banquo shows curiosity to find out about his own future. However, he does not permit the predictions to influence his behaviour; therefore, he retains his integrity throughout the play.	2.3. ‘ O horror, horror, horror!	Macduff's response when he discovers Duncan has been murdered conveys the cruel unjust nature of the event. The heartbroken way he delivers news of the king's death contrasts with suspicion and distrust subjects feel for Macbeth once he assumes the throne.
1.3. All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!	The witches manipulate Macbeth by playing on his secret desire to become king and by planting the idea of murder in his mind. They give the impression they can foretell the future and control fate.	1.3. ‘ to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles	In this metaphor Banquo shows his cautious approach to the witches and his awareness of how they can tell us small things we want to hear in order to lead us towards disaster. His stubborn refusal to believe the witches contrasts with Macbeth's malleability.	4.3. Bleed, bleed, poor country! Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure, For goodness dare not check thee.	Macduff's emotive metaphor depicts Macbeth's laments the devastating affect Macbeth's reign is having on Scotland. Macduff is angry at himself and others who will not stand up to Macbeth.
4.1. ‘ By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.	The witches can sense Macbeth's evil presence nearby. The riddles mirror how they will riddle Macbeth's mind again.	2.1. ‘ A heavy summons lies like lead upon me, And yet I would not sleep	In this simile, Banquo openly reveals the witches' predictions are preying on his mind. His transparency contrasts with Macbeth who abruptly denies having any thoughts about the witches when he says ‘I think not of them’.	4.3. ‘ O hell kite...all my pretty chickens...at one fell swoop	Macduff likens Macbeth to a ‘kite’ bird of prey who has cruelly killed his innocent ‘chickens’.
4.1. ‘ How now, you secret, black and midnight hags!	Macbeth's desperation to cling on to his power leads him back to the witches - midnight and black links to the recurring motif of evil.	3.1. ‘ I fear thou play'dst most foully for it.	Banquo's gaming metaphor reveals his suspicion Macbeth has cheated to win the crown. Banquo doesn't voice his suspicions to others either because of loyalty to Macbeth or for selfish reasons so as not to interfere with the supernatural prediction that he will be the father to a long line of kings.	5.7. Let me find him, Fortune, and more I beg not.	Macduff is determined to kill Macbeth and revenge the brutal murder of his family. Macduff calls on Fortune to help him find Macbeth and kill him, echoing the role of fate and the supernatural in the play, as represented elsewhere by the Witches.
5.7. ‘ Be these juggling fiends no more believed	Macbeth finally realises that the witches have been deceiving him. Juggling balls normally come in threes just as the weird sisters were a trio.	4.1. ‘ Blood-boltered Banquo smiles upon me	The plosive ‘b’ sound mirrors how painful Macbeth finds the vision of Banquo taunting him.	5.8. ‘ Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped	Macduff's unnatural birth breaks the charm to break Macbeth's unnatural reign of terror.