

Macbeth shows us:

- **Ambition:** Macbeth shows how ambition can lead to moral destruction and downfall. ("Vaulting ambition" - Macbeth knows his ambition is dangerous.)
- **Supernatural Influence:** The witches' prophecies manipulate Macbeth's actions - warning about trusting unnatural forces.
- **Guilt and Conscience:** Macbeth is deeply troubled by guilt (hallucinations like the dagger and Banquo's ghost).
- **Kingship and Tyranny:** Macbeth's rule is a contrast to Duncan's good kingship. Shakespeare teaches that a tyrant brings chaos.
- **Fate vs Free Will:** Macbeth struggles between what is destined (witches) and his own choices.

### Historical information:

Here's what you can write on your half-page of notes:

- **11th Century Scotland:** Violent time, kings often gained power through murder. Loyalty to a strong king was vital.
- **1606 England:** James I was king (he believed in divine right - kings were chosen by God). Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* partly to please him.
- **Jacobean Beliefs:**
  - Belief in witches and the supernatural was very strong - witches were seen as evil and real.
  - Killing a king (regicide) was seen as the worst possible crime - would bring chaos to the world (linked to "Great Chain of Being").