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HUM 110

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Macbeth is in the form of a play and that is how the plot is arranged. The complication starts when Macbeth kills the king so he can become king. Because Macbeth murdered once he must continue to murder to keep his secret. The climax is when Macbeth plans to murder Banquo and Fleance, but Fleance escapes and now the witches’ prophecy is falling in place. The denouement happens after Macduff kills Macbeth, and we are told how Malcom wants to restore Scotland to how it was. Though there is more to the plot this is the key take aways.

Looking at the characters in Macbeth, Macbeth is the protagonist. Though he is not the good guy in the play, he is the main character. The plot centers around Macbeth and all his murders. Macbeth is also his own antagonist. Macbeth goes through some mental challenges of self-doubt. Macbeth struggles with guilt, and this causes him to be a weak character on his own.

Macbeth was not perfect. His flaw of ambition lead to his destruction. Macbeth always wanted more. Nothing was enough for him. His downfall begins when Lady Macbeth wants his to be king as well and helps lead him to his murderous path. He kills the king and then again this is not enough. He continues to murder people and him being outsmarted by others leads to his fall.

There are many themes in the play. One is the effects of ambition. As discussed in the previous question, Macbeth’s desire to always want more lead him down a dark path and eventually killed. Another theme is people though likeable can be deceitful. In the play people liked Macbeth. Throughout the play he continues to murder and plan murders against people just so he can have more power. Another theme is nothing is as it seems. The people in Macbeth thought they could be trusted. Macbeth and the witches being two examples. In reality people can’t be trusted and they go behind people’s backs and do what is best for them.

Shakespeare is an old writer and uses language that does not always make sense to people today. He does use diction as he writes though and one place, he uses it is the line “look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under’t.” This line uses symbolism using a snake as being sneaky and untrustworthy. Another example is “here’s the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.” This is a metaphor for the guilt. There is blood on his hands, and he will always know that and he feels guilty for what he has done.

In scene 7 of Act 1 there is a point when Macbeth is debating whether he should murder Duncan and Lady Macbeth taunts him to do so. There are supposed to be oboes and torches. The music is there as a butler enters. I would create a suspenseful tone until Macbeth entered the room and then have the music stop. Then in act 4 scene one the witches come again. They chant and dance and then vanish out of nowhere. When creating the music for this I’d make it fun and then have lightening strike with a big cloud of smoke over the witches as they disappear.

I did not have an emotional reaction to the play. I found myself just reading the play and finding no connection. To overcome this challenge, I tried reading it out loud and then watching the live ones online.

Peripety is a sudden change. It is like a reverse of what happened. In this scene Lady Macbeth is freaking out because she is guilty and has blood on her hands. She knows that there is nothing that can rid of the fact that someone was killed. In the beginning of the play Lady Macbeth told Macbeth that he could just wash his hands of the blood, and everything would be fine. The roles changed and this represents peripety.