|  |
| --- |
| **‘Macbeth’ Answers** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Retrieval Grid** |

*Mark your answers to the following questions:*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What becomes of Lady Macbeth at the end of the play?** | **Who leads the attack against Macbeth’s castle near the end of the play?** | **Why do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continually ask for darkness throughout the play?** | **How is Duncan’s blood and skin described by Macbeth upon ‘discovery’ of the king’s body?** |
| **What are the prophecies given to Macbeth and Banquo?** | **Who does the Porter imagine is knocking on the castle gates, or hell-gate’?** | **Why does Macbeth kill Macduff’s children and what is the correct term for this?** | **What becomes of Macbeth at the end of the play?** |
| **What are ‘hands’ symbolic of in the play?** | **What does Lady Macbeth have by her side as she sleepwalks and why is this significant?** | **How is Macbeth described by the Captain in his report and why is he described in this way?** | **What does the term ‘hamartia’ mean and what is Macbeth’s?** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **One Point** | **Two Points** | **Three Points** | **Four Points** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lady Macbeth ends her life after being driven mad by the guilt that consumes her.** | **Malcolm and Macduff lead the attack against Macbeth’s castle.** | **Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continually ask for darkness so that no one can see the evil acts they commit.** | **Duncan’s skin is described as ‘silver’ and his blood as ‘golden’, perhaps highlighting his royal, holy status.** |
| **Macbeth is told he will be Thane of Glamis (which he is already), Thane of Cawdor and King. Banquo is told he will not be king but that his children will be.** | **The Porter images a farmer who has hoarded his produce, an equivocator and a tailor are knocking on the gates of the castle.** | **Macbeth kills Macduff’s children after being told to beware Macduff. Macbeth slaughters Macbeth’s wife and children to ensure they are not a threat. The killing of children is called infanticide.** | **Macbeth is killed by Macduff.** |
| **Hands represent honourable and loyal actions at the beginning of the play yet as time progresses, they come to represent dishonesty and betrayal.** | **Lady Macbeth has a candle by her side. This is significant because she has spent the rest of the play asking for darkness to conceal her actions and now she is afraid of it.** | **Macbeth is described as ‘brave’. Shakespeare is setting up the audiences’ expectations so that it is all the more horrific when this loyal character betrays his king.** | **‘Hamartia’ is a fatal flaw in one’s character. Macbeth’s hamartia is his ambition.** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Activity 2: Picture Prompts** |

*Consider the basic knowledge I would have expected you to include and add any missing gaps in knowledge in a different colour pen.*

Macbeth is tempted with the idea of kingship. The crown offers him power and, in Macbeth’s view, invincible. Of course, this is incorrect. The crown could also link to the idea of the Divine Right of Kings, the idea that monarchs were chosen by God to be their spokesperson on earth. To commit regicide would have been the ultimate sin. An attack on the monarch was an attack on God.



Light and darkness is a common theme in the play. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask for darkness at the beginning of the play (‘stars hide your fires’/ ‘come thick night’) in order to hide their scheming actions. Darkness is symbolic of secrecy. By the end of the play, however, light is desired instead. Lady Macbeth holds a candle near here. She is afraid of darkness and its associations with guilt.



Violence becomes a cycle which is impossible to escape. The Captain confirms that Macbeth is capable of violent actions at the very beginning of the play. As soon as kills Duncan, however, Macbeth feels violence, which is celebrated at the beginning of the play, is the only way to consolidate and keep his power. Violence actions are committed through the play in a desperate attempt to hold on to power.



Macbeth’s fate is linked to the supernatural. The witches look to the future to see what will become of Macbeth and Banquo. Macbeth is very much taken which his prophecy and desires to see more. What could be seen as a positive thing, soon leads Macbeth to his downfall. Banquo’s ghost appears to hold Macbeth to account for his actions. Guilt takes on a supernatural form.





Duplicity (being two-faced) is a major theme in the play. Lady Macbeth often instructs Macbeth to look innocent whilst they plan the murder of Duncan. Shakespeare concerns himself with the idea of appearance vs reality. What things appear to be are not always reality.

|  |
| --- |
| **Quotation Retrieval** |

*Mark your answers for this exercise.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quotation** | **Who says it?** | **What does this tell us about their character?** |
| foulFair**‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and foul is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.’**fair | The Witches | The witches are used at the beginning of the play to show that things are not as they see. The dualism in this statement shows appearance is not always reality. |
| **‘Stars hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth reveals his desires are ‘black’, implying he is already having murderous thoughts about killing his king. His ambition is beginning to stir within him and asks for darkness so he can make them a reality in secret. |
| **‘I do fear thy nature, It is too full o’th’ milk of human kindness.’** | Lady Macbeth | Lady Macbeth does not seem to have faith in her husband. She does not believe he will be able to go through any action that will make them king and queen quickly. Her doubts place her in a position of control. |
| **‘The raven himself is hoarse that croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan under my battlements.’** | Lady Macbeth | Lady Macbeth is certain Duncan will die in their castle. This quotation shows she is ambitious and will do anything to get what she wants. The use of ‘my’ shows she believes she is in control of the situation and Macbeth will follow her lead. |
| **‘I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth realises there is no other reason for him to kill the king besides his ambition and decides to proceed no further. This shows he can still be redeemed at this point because of his reluctance to kill Duncan. |
| **‘Is this a dagger which I see before me.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth imagines the violence he will soon be committing. We begin to wonder if Macbeth is of sound mind but the fact the dagger disappears before he kills Duncan shows he is not mad and is in complete control of himself. |
| **‘I fear thou play’dst most foully for’t.’** | Banquo | Banquo, a loyal friend of Macbeth’s begins to have his doubts. He echoes the witches’ words ‘foul’. He has his suspicions and this makes him a threat to Macbeth. |
| **‘We have scorched the snake, not killed it.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth begins to fear for the security of his kingship. He is stumbling into a cycle of violence at this point in the play which he will find it difficult to escape from. |
| **‘Thou canst not say I did it. Never shake thy gory locks at me.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth’s guilt is beginning to consume him. Banquo’s ghost appears to him to hold him to account for his actions. His ghost terrifies Macbeth showing he is beginning to lose control of himself. Violence does not come without its consequences. |
| **‘Out damned spot.’** | Lady Macbeth | Lady Macbeth believes she has a spot of blood on her hand which she cannot scrub away, just like she cannot rid herself of her guilt. She has a light near her as she is afraid of the darkness which is also associated with guilt. Lady Macbeth’s fate has caught up with her and she becomes a weak and vulnerable character. |
| **‘Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day.’** | Macbeth | Macbeth, although determined to fight on, seemingly questions the point of life upon hearing news of his wife’s death. He had lost all sense of right and wrong, all sense of purpose and has nothing left but to fight for what little he has.  |
| **‘This dead butcher and his fiend-like queen.’** | Malcolm | Malcolm, Duncan’s son, describes Macbeth in this way. He believes Macbeth killed for no reason but for himself. Macbeth has left a legacy of blood and death and will be remembered for the tyrannical rule he imposed over Scotland. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Further Questions** |

*Mark your answers:*

1. **Why does Shakespeare open the play with thunder and lightning? To create an atmosphere of fear and terror. The weather could foreshadow the turbulent times Scotland will face throughout the play.**
2. **Why do the witches appear in thunder and lightning? Shakespeare has the witches appear in this weather to show they are characters to be feared; they are associated with supernatural imagery.**
3. **How does Shakespeare use speech in this scene to let the audience know what kind of weather the witches meet in? The witches ask when they will meet again, ‘in thunder, lightning or in rain.’**
4. **Retrieve a short quotation where Macbeth asks for darkness. ‘Stars hide your fires. Let not light see my black and deep desires.’**
5. **Retrieve a short quotation where Lady Macbeth asks for darkness. ‘Come thick night and pall thee in the dunnest smokes of hell.’**
6. **What is darkness symbolic of? Guilt, scheming, murderous thoughts, plots and machinations**
7. **What does Duncan initially think of Macbeth’s castle when he first arrives. Retrieve a short quotation. He likes the location of the castle. He says it ‘hath a pleasant seat.’**
8. **What does the Porter joke the castle has become in the scene after Duncan’s murder? He jokes that he is the porter of hell-gate, meaning the castle has become a metaphorical hell.**
9. **What kind of character is Banquo in the play? Noble, loyal, a trusted friend.**
10. **Why are the Macbeths so afraid of noise? The Macbeths worry that noise will lead to discovery of their secrets and plans.**
11. **Lady Macbeth only calls Macbeth by the name of ‘husband’ once in the play. Why do you think this is? Perhaps because she believes herself to be superior or to play on the fact that he has somewhat disappointed her with his reaction to Duncan’s murder.**
12. **Retrieve a short quotation which shows Lady Macbeth is scared of darkness. ‘She has light by her continually, ‘tis her command.’**
13. **What kind of character is Lady Macbeth at the end of the play? Weak, vulnerable, scared, like a child.**