

Macbeth: William Shakespeare



The Plot

‘Questions of the Day’

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to answer the following questions:

QOTD1: What are the key moments in the play?

QOTD2: Why are they important to the play?

QOTD3: What changes throughout the play?

Click on any screen below in Slideshow Mode to see a video summary of Macbeth (links are also below the slide).

You may wish to watch more than one – this would help you to be clear about what happens in the play 😊

1



2



3



4



What are the
key moments in
the play?



Which of the following moments happen in the play 'Macbeth'?

Highlight the correct moments from the play

(One is incorrect for each Act)

IN ACT ONE, THE PLAY STARTS WITH A MEETING BETWEEN THREE WITCHES	IN ACT ONE, ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IS GIVEN THREE PROPHECIES	IN ACT ONE, SOMEONE IS PERSUADED TO KILL THE KING...	IN ACT ONE, A SHIP CRASHES INTO AN ISLAND
IN ACT TWO, THE MAIN CHARACTER KILLS THE KING IN HIS SLEEP	IN ACT TWO, THE TWO LEADING CHARACTERS DECIDE TO GET MARRIED	IN ACT TWO, THE MAIN CHARACTER IS HAUNTED BY AN IMAGE OF A DAGGER	IN ACT TWO, THE TWO SONS OF A KING DECIDE TO FLEE THE COUNTRY IN FEAR
IN ACT THREE, THE MAIN CHARACTER INVITES HIS FRIEND TO A BANQUET	IN ACT THREE, SOMEONE ORDERS THE MURDER OF THEIR FRIEND	IN ACT THREE, SOMEONE IS KILLED ACCIDENTALLY	IN ACT THREE, A GHOST OF A DEAD FRIEND COMES BACK TO HAUNT SOMEONE
IN ACT FOUR, A HANDKERCHIEF IS PLANTED BY SOMEONE	IN ACT FOUR, A GROUP OF PEOPLE SUMMON APPARATIONS TO MAKE PREDICTIONS	IN ACT FOUR, A SEVERED HEAD AND TWO GHOSTLY CHILDREN APPEAR	IN ACT FOUR, A KING ORDERS THE MURDER OF A FAMILY
IN ACT FIVE, SOMEONE TRIES TO WASH IMAGINARY BLOOD FROM HER HANDS	IN ACT FIVE, WE SEE THAT THE MALE PROTAGONIST IS ACTUALLY FEMALE	IN ACT FIVE, THE MAIN CHARACTER FINDS OUT HIS WIFE HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE	IN ACT FIVE, WE SEE THE PREDICTIONS FROM ACT FOUR COME TRUE

Here are the key moments from the play!

Make sure you mark your work and add any that you didn't get.

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IN ACT THREE, THE MAIN CHARACTER INVITES HIS FRIEND TO A BANQUET	IN ACT THREE, SOMEONE ORDERS THE MURDER OF THEIR FRIEND	IN ACT THREE, SOMEONE IS KILLED ACCIDENTALLY	IN ACT THREE, A GHOST OF A DEAD FRIEND COMES BACK TO HAUNT SOMEONE
IN ACT FOUR, A HANDKERCHIEF IS PLANTED BY SOMEONE	IN ACT FOUR, A GROUP OF PEOPLE SUMMON APPARATIONS TO MAKE PREDICTIONS	IN ACT FOUR, A SEVERED HEAD AND TWO GHOSTLY CHILDREN APPEAR	IN ACT FOUR, A KING ORDERS THE MURDER OF A FAMILY
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Why are they
important to the
play?



Cards For Macbeth



You will now see a range of sentence starters about key moments in the play 'Macbeth'.

Complete each sentence with an interesting and relevant ending.

If you are stuck for ideas, the white cards should help – some of you may have your own ideas though!


Arguably, the first key moment of the play is

Not sure what to write? Look at the white cards for ideas – choose one that you like and write it down.



Cards For Macbeth

seeing the Witches in Act 1 Scene 1, as they reveal their plan to torment Macbeth.

 Cards For Macbeth

the meeting between Macbeth, Banquo and the Three Witches – the prophecies influence the entire play.

 Cards For Macbeth

Lady Macbeth's reaction to the letter from Macbeth – it is here that she starts to consider regicide.

 Cards For Macbeth

when Macbeth agrees to murder King Duncan – this action will start his doomed journey.

 Cards For Macbeth

One of the most significant moments for Lady Macbeth is

Not sure what to write? Look at the white cards for ideas – choose one that you like and write it down.



Cards For Macbeth

when she receives the letter from Macbeth in A1S5 – it feeds her ambition and ruthless desires to gain power.

 Cards For Macbeth

her madness during A5S1, as she attempts to remove imaginary blood from her hands.

 Cards For Macbeth

her decision to help Macbeth with the murder of King Duncan in A2S2 – she even frames the king's guards!

 Cards For Macbeth

her sad but seemingly inevitable suicide in A5S5 – it may suggest she was unable to overcome her guilt.

 Cards For Macbeth


**If asked
about the
supernatural
in the exam, I
would want
to discuss**

Not sure what to write? Look at the white cards for ideas – choose one that you like and write it down.



Cards For Macbeth

**Macbeth's
hallucination
of a dagger,
just before he
goes in to
murder King
Duncan in his
sleep.**

 Cards For Macbeth

**the ominous
prophecies
delivered by
the Three
Witches in Act
1.**

 Cards For Macbeth

**Banquo's
appearance
at the
banquet in
Act 3, just
after the order
was given for
his murder by
Macbeth.**

 Cards For Macbeth

**Lady
Macbeth's
sleepwalking
in Act 5, when
she tries to
remove
imaginary
blood from
her hands.**

 Cards For Macbeth

What changes
throughout the
play?



In an exam question about 'Macbeth,' you would need to discuss an extract from the play and how that relates to the rest of the play. This means you need to have an understanding of how the play develops and changes throughout.

Next to the topics and the directions, discuss how they develop and change throughout the play. You have been given an example for the first one – this should help you with the rest!

Macbeth	↑	As the play develops, Macbeth's desire for power becomes greater and greater.
Lady Macbeth	↓	
Ambition	↑	
Madness	???	

You should now be able to answer the 'Questions of the Day'!

Answer the following questions:

QOTD1: What are the key moments in the play?

QOTD2: Why are they important to the play?

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