

Welcome

A lesson on the
following topic will be
imparted to the learners



Macbeth , Introduction.mp4

What Macbeth Is about

There is murder, certainly. And ambition. And tyranny. And revenge. But those are not the things that make this play so compelling.

Primarily, this play is a meditation on consequences.

Before murdering Duncan, Macbeth says, “Stars, hide your fires! Let not night see my black and dark desires.”

Macbeth exerts all his strength and ingenuity to escape the grip of his crime, but he can't. And worse, everything he does to escape merely tightens the noose. The rest of the play is the slow, inexorable unfolding of the consequences of his crime, in the minds of Macbeth and his wife, deteriorating into helpless paranoia; in the crumbling discipline of his administration until Dunsinane is an absurd mockery of reign; in the devastation of Scotland itself, sliding into ruin and famine.

It can't be stopped until Macbeth's head is severed from his body, and the healing can finally begin.

Macbeth may be a murderous tyrant, but he is not simply a madman. He is not what we (in our day) would call a sociopath. Shakespeare does not allow Macbeth the luxury of a lack of conscience. Instead, Macbeth has a fully-functioning moral compass. Try as he might, he cannot escape experiencing the full weight of having made a mistake that cannot be corrected; of having committed a sin that cannot be absolved. He experiences the grating descent into a living Hell, where there can be no peace of mind, ever again. Where "Macbeth has murdered sleep." To feel what it would be like in that place, Macbeth's following soliloquy may be appropriate :

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing."

Significant Aspects of The Play

The Weird Sisters

They have most often been portrayed as older women, often grotesque in their appearance. Occasionally they have been younger women, seductresses, nurses, and a variety of more unique interpretations. In Shakespeare's First Folio, the word *weird* is written *wayward* or *weyard*, derivatives of the word *wyrd*. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the Anglo-Saxon word *wyrd* means "the principal, power, or agency by which events are predetermined; fate, destiny."

The weird sisters , having the ability to predict Macbeth's fate, presumably enjoy the status of supernatural machinery. But throughout the play they give the impression of *instruments of darkness*.

They play on words in their bid to play with Macbeth's ambition . The ambitious Macbeth took them into his confidence , and his fate was tossed. Finally the witches were exposed as treacherous temptresses who seduced Macbeth into chasing his doom.



The Weird Sisters cooking up
a recipe for disaster

Lady Macbeth

She is more than anything else an actress. She suppresses her fear and assumes a bravery, which she does not really possess. Lady Macbeth puts on a "false face" in front of everyone, including herself. Her true self is only revealed in an unconscious state -in her sleep and her eventual somnambulistic state. With a great strength of will Lady Macbeth dominates the situation in her waking state to achieve her obsessive ambition for her husband. In the preparation for the murder she is cool and calculating, manipulating her husband into dancing to her tune. She redefines manliness for him as the ability to be unfeelingly brutal and goads him into proving this to her. The sexual energy involved in her persuasion is evident in her language. This energy is sublimated into ambition and culminates with Duncan's murder and the bloody rebirth of Macbeth as an unnatural human and heir to the throne.



Lady Macbeth goading her husband into a dark shortcut to the throne

FATE

The very moment the witches give Macbeth their prophecies, fate is introduced as an unavoidable factor. How much does it count for? Must one act on it to make it happen? Macbeth tries to control his own fate by killing Duncan. He then goes on to kill everyone who he believes stands in the way of his fate. By trying to control his own fate, he brings himself right to his ultimate fate: death.



Macbeth's forlorn attempt to save himself accentuates the futility of his late disenchantment

VIOLENCE

Macbeth is a play drenched in blood and violence. No one is safe. Men, Women, and children are brutally murdered. One death leads to the next. Macbeth himself explains, “blood will to blood” as he sees Banquo’s ghost and recognizes the vicious cycle of violence.

NATURAL AND UNNATURAL WORLD

In medieval times, it was believed that if a leader was good and just, the natural world would be in good condition. Politics correlated with nature.

With good leadership came good weather, good crops, and happy spirits. In *Macbeth*, we see the negative side to this phenomenon. Once Macbeth kills Duncan, nature begins to get into an anomalous state. Storms begin to rage, earthquakes shake the land, and animals begin acting crazy. Nature mirrors the terror brought on by the actions of Macbeth. The characters mention nature all throughout the play.

Decision

One salient aspect of *Macbeth* is choice. Macbeth chooses to kill. The witches tell Macbeth he will become King, but they never tell him to kill anyone to get there. Once he begins killing people, he cannot stop. This eventually leads to his destruction and death. Macbeth starts the play as a respected nobleman who is honest and good, but he quickly falls into a series of poor decisions destroying himself and those around him.



Macbeth , Act 1.mp4



Standing-Bears_MAnHxl2N.mp4