

"MACBETH" AGT ONE

Scene 7
 Lady Macbeth persuades husband to kill.
 Shocking baby image

Scene 6
 Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle

Scene 2
 Duncan hears of Macbeth's bravery

Scenes
 Meet Lady Macbeth

Scene 4
 Duncan greets Macbeth/Duncan
 Malcolm confirmed as his successor

Scene 3
 Witches meet Macbeth/Banquo Predictions

Scene 1
 meet the Witches



Lady Macbeth is very humble and gracious to Duncan - very two faced

Macbeth's soliloquy where he decides not to murder he fears God

Lady M vs. horrific image of dashing "the brains out" of a baby if she had promised to do so

Dramatic opening
 "fair is foul, and foul is fair"
 confusion, ambiguity appearance + reality
 Rhyming verse
 Supernatural
 "there to meet with Macbeth"
 "when the battle's lost and won"
 ominous

Ironic that Duncan feels he is receiving such a warm welcome

Macbeth: "false face must hide what the false heart doth know"
 deception

Duncan: "O valiant Cousin! worthy Gentleman!"
 Captain: "Brave Macbeth"
 Macbeth as Tragic Hero
 powerful, high status
 about Macbeth
 "noble Macbeth"

Lady Macbeth: "The raven himself is hoarse that croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan under my battlements"
 it is her castle! strong woman
 Key Quote
 "fatal" (she plans to kill)

STRONG WOMEN
 MANIPULATION
 MALCONTENT
 EVIL
 DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS
 AMBITION
 RESPECT
 VIOLENCE
 SUPERNATURAL
 CONFUSION
 AMBIGUITY

It is her plot to kill Duncan

Macbeth: "start, hide your fires let not light see my black and deep desires"
 ambition
 evil

respect
 Captain: "Till he unseemed him from the nave to the chaps"
 MACBETH
 violence

Lady M reads Macbeth's letter - Quotes - "my dearest partner of greatness"
 shows his closeness to her

Lady M: "come you spirits... unsex me here"
 link to supernatural

Macbeth: "why do I yield to that horrid image"
 he is already contemplating Duncan's dead body
 Banquo: "Look how our partner's rapt" - ie look how Macbeth is obsessed by this prediction
 Macbeth: "so foul and fair a day I have not seen"
 link to witches, echo

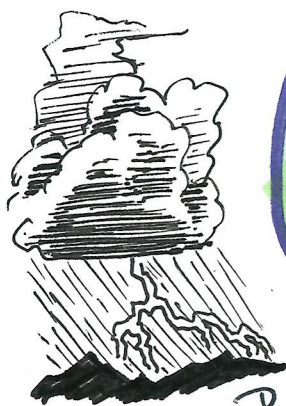
Duncan talking about Thane of Cawdor: "He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust" - enter Macbeth
 Dramatic Irony

Macbeth (Aside) Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor: "The greatest is behind" (ie yet to come)
 shows ambition

Lady M: "look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under 't"
 deception

because duncan's sons flee, macbeth is made king

this is a hectic, violent, chaotic world where power is seized



Scene 4
old man + Ross discuss the Aftermath of Duncan's murder

Discuss terrible storms and unnatural weather after Duncan's murder

"old man: 'Tis unnatural, even like the deed that's done"

Donaldbain "where we are there's daggers in men's smiles"

Lady macbeth faints as macbeth's over dramatic speech is drawing attention to himself
macbeth kills the Guards

Lennox discusses terrible weather / storms hearing sounds. "prophesying with accents terrible" (natural order has been disturbed)

Porter scene is Black Comedy

Porter scene = comic relief after murder - in prose due to lower status of character

Scene 3
The Porter scene
Macduff discovers Duncan's body
Lady macbeth faints
Malcolm/Donaldbain flee

Porter scene is SYMBOLIC: due to his actions macbeth is damned, and his castle has become a "hell on earth"

thus Porter - "Devil Porter" - imagines letting people into "hell"

Nature and superstition

DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS

NATURE RESPONDS

GOD IS OFFENDED

CASTLE IS "HELL"

SYMBOLIC PORTER

BLOOD

VIOLENCE

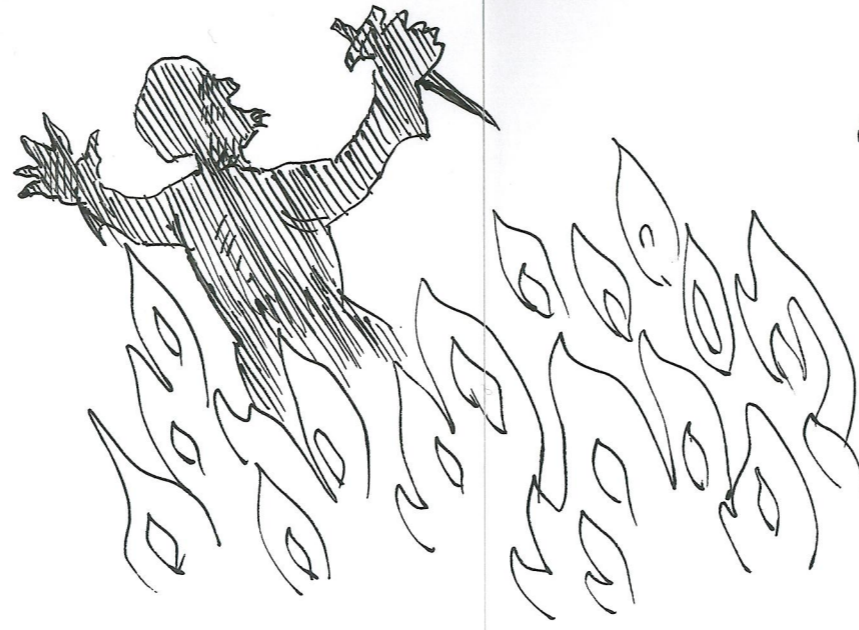
MACBETH'S GUILT

PANIC + PROSE

AMBITION

CONSCIENCE

GUILT



Macbeth soliloquy "Is this a dagger, which I see before me"

dagger is symbol of ambition

dagger is part of witches' manipulation of macbeth

Scene 1
macbeth prepares to kill the king

macbeth: witchcraft celebrates Pale He cate's Off' rings"
(macbeth linked to supernatural)

A frantic scene: lots of prose, exclamation, tension
out of control
murder is off stage (too shocking!)



Lady m: "my hands are of your colour, but I shame to wear a heart so white"
↑ mocking him
ironic when, in Act V, she cannot wash off the blood

Lady m - to husband: "In firm of purpose!" "brain sickly" - she is in control

Scene 2
Lady macbeth waits
macbeth shocked
Lady macbeth in charge

macbeth: "I could not say amen"
(implication that macbeth is damned. Divine Right of kings)

"MACBETH" ACT TWO



This scene reinforces that Macbeth is being manipulated by supernatural. Like a TRAGIC HERO he is not entirely responsible for his downfall
(we feel pity for him?)

They talk about the "suffering country"

sort of a "News Report" style scene

Scene 6
Lennox and a Lord discuss the state of the world

Macbeth's ambition grows deeper - willing to kill his best friend (and his son)

Scene 1
Macbeth meets murderers
plan to kill Banquo

Murderers speak in prose - language is a social signifier of status

Lady M: Nought's had, all's spent where our desire is got without content"
first sign of regret?

Scene 5
The Hecate scene
Hecate discusses supernatural influence over Macbeth

IRONIC
Hecate: "He shall spurn fate, scorn death and bear his hopes 'bove wisdom, grace and fear"

This comes to pass of course

SUPERNATURAL

"MACBETH"
ACT THREE

MURDER
VIOLENCE

LADY M WEAKENS?

CONSCIENCE
GUILT
regret

Scene 2
Lady Macbeth and Macbeth talk
Lady M not told about murder plan

fatal flaw? "O full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!"
conscience
guilt

"Macbeth: I am in blood stepp'd in so far" there's no point going back - he's gone too far



Fleance has escaped: thus the prediction of Banquo's offspring becoming kings still holds true

Scene 4
The Banquet scene
Banquo's Ghost
Macbeth decides to re-visit the "weird sisters"

Lady Macbeth dismisses guests and saves her husband - her last stand - we do not see her again until the sleepwalking scene in Act V

The Ghost is a symbol of Banquo's horrific death and Macbeth's guilt + conscience

Dramatic scene

Scene 3
Banquo murdered
Fleance escapes

Murderers speak in prose

violence

Macbeth: "make our faces vizards (masks) to our hearts"
Lady M: "how now my lord, why do you keep alone" (cracks in their relationship?)
theme of deception, seeming and being
"be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck" - does not tell wife of plans to murder Banquo/Fleance



Dramatic: witches
Spells, potions, chanting
remember the superstitious audience

Witch: "By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes"

introduces macbeth

Scene 1
• macbeth revisits Witches
• more prophecy
• Macbeth plans to kill Macduff's family

the three further predictions simply add to Macbeth's confidence / complacency

Macbeth: "The very firstlings of my heart shall be the firstlings of my hand"
he will no longer 'think' before he acts, or feel emotions like guilt / remorse?

"MACBETH" ACT FOUR

VIOLENCE
SUPERNATURAL
AMBITION
EVIL

WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
INNOCENCE DESTROYED
THE COUNTER-ATTACK

Shakespeare delays moment when Macduff is told about the murder of his wife and family
dramatic irony as we know

Scene 3
England:
• Macduff + Ross persuade England
• Malcolm to assist in rebellion against Macbeth

"Malcolm: Let's make us medicines of our great revenge"

Macbeth is seen as a metaphorical illness

Macduff: "Bleed, bleed poor country" - personifies the nation as a wounded person

Death of Innocence:

Words of son illustrate a world that has been turned upside down:

"then the liars and swearers are fools; for there are liars and swearers now to beat the honest men, and hang up them"

evil dominates good in this new, changed world

Scene 2
• murder of Macduff's family
• Nightmarish new world without order

shocking violence - no logic to the murders

Macduff's family is a symbol of innocence

Macduff has left his family - he is not blameless in their deaths

Macduff: "The Time is free"

Lady M: "Hell is murky" - castle is a hell on earth

"out, out damned spot" (she cannot wash away her guilt)

Scene 1
Lady Macbeth Sleepwalks

Prose shows lack of control + high emotion (her status has diminished)

"Will these hands never be clean?"

Doctor: "A great perturbation of nature"

idea of nature being damaged by Macbeth
They have been Unnatural - Divine Right etc

Macduff to Macbeth: "Turn, hell hound, turn"

Scenes
Macbeth Slain by Macduff
Prophecies proved false

Macbeth to Macduff: "Get thee back, my soul is too much charged with blood of thine already" regret/guilt?

Scene 9
Order is restored

restoration of order

morality is restored

Scene 2
The rebels start to gather + meet English

"meet we the medicine"

Macbeth: "seyton!" / Satan reference to hell

Scene 3
Macbeth talks to Doctor re: Lady Macbeth

"MACBETH" ACT FIVE

CHRISTIAN VALUES RESTORED

RESTORATION OF ORDER

SUPER NATURAL

FATE

LOOK AT THE FACE OF ACT

LOTS OF SHORT SCENES

MORALITY

GRIEF

POETIC IMAGINATION OF MACBETH



Macbeth: "Life's but a walking shadow" etc

Scene 5
Death of Lady Macbeth
Famous speech from Macbeth

Macbeth's poetic imagination in evidence

Macbeth: "(I) Begin to doubt the equivocation of the fiend that lies like truth"

"Out, out brief candle" candle is metaphor for death

Macbeth is starting to realize that he has been manipulated (equivocation means double meaning) fiend = witches

(equivocation means double meaning)

Scene 4
Rebels cut down trees to disguise their numbers
Advance on the castle

look at fast, frantic pace of this Act - lots of short, varied scenes

Scene 7
Macbeth kills Young Siward
Still confident of Prophecies

Macduff/Macbeth's meeting is delayed - to build drama

Scene 6
Rebels ready to storm castle