GCSE **Macbeth** *William Shakespeare*

KnowIT

Characters

- What is the name of Duncan's son who is eventually King?
- What is Macbeth's **hamartia**?
- How would you describe Lady Macbeth?
- How are Macbeth and Banquo similar?
- How are Macbeth and Banquo different?
- How would you describe the witches?
- Why does Macduff want to kill Macbeth?

Genre/Context

- What is a Shakespearean **tragedy**?
- Why is Macbeth a typical tragedy?
- Why did Shakespeare add the witches to the play?
- Why did Shakespeare make Banquo such an honourable character?

Stage Directions/Terminology

- What is a **soliloquy**? Give an example from the play.
- What is an **aside**? Give an example from the play.
- What is a **counterfoil**? Who is this in the play?
- What is **dramatic irony**? When do we see this in the play?

Themes

- Give an example of how the play shows the battle between **good and evil**.
- Give an example of how the play shows the theme of **guilt**.
- Give an example of how the play presents **women**.
- Give an example of how the play presents **insanity**.

Plot

- How does Macbeth earn Thane of Cawdor?
- What are the witches' **prophecies** for Banquo and Macbeth?
- How does Lady Macbeth plan for them to get away with the murder of Duncan? Why does it nearly go wrong?
- Why does Macbeth arrange for the murder of Banquo?
- Why does Macbeth return to the witches?
- What are the witches' prophecies for Macbeth the second time he visits them?
- Where is Malcolm and what is he doing?
- Why does Lady Macbeth start sleep walking?
- How does Macbeth react to her death?
- How do we see that the *'fiend lies'* at the end of the play?
- Who becomes King when Macbeth is dead?

What do the Quotes Tell Us About...?

- Macbeth - *'Bloody instruction, which being taught, return to plague the inventor.'*
- Macbeth - *'I am in blood. Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more,. Returning were as tedious as go o'er. '*
- Lady Macbeth - *'Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent underneath it.'*
- Banquo - *'There if I grow the harvest is thine own.'*
- The Witches - *'fair is foul and foul is fair.'*

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