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| Macbeth Act by Act Guide | | | | |
| Act | Setting | Characters | Events | Quote/**Language/Structural**/Theme Links |
| Act 1 Scene 1 | Scottish moor – bleak and desolate | 3 Witches | Plan to meet again when the war is over | **Pathetic Fallacy**  Supernatural (Theme)  Could be considered to set the mood for the play – dark, depressing and dangerous.  “when shall we three meet again?  when the battle’s lost and won,  when the Hurly Burly’s done.” |
| Act 1 Scene 2 | Military Camp | King Duncan  Wounded soldier  Messenger | Second hand discussion of Macbeth’s bravery in battle and killing of traitor – The thane of Cawdor. King Duncan proclaims Macbeth to be given this title. | **Irony** (Macbeth’s bravery in killing a traitor)  War/Death/Deceit/Power (Themes)  Could discuss the role of honour, character of Macbeth being good but appearances can be deceptive |
| Act 1 Scene 3 | On the Heath above the battlefield | 3 Witches  Macbeth  Banquo  Ross & Angus | Witches tell Banquo and Macbeth of three prophecies. Ross tells Macbeth when the witches have gone that Macbeth has been made Thane of Cawdor – showing that the first prophecy had come true. | “All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!”  “All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!”  “Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!”  **Repetition** of “Hail” symbol of respect but perhaps overused by the witches?  **Pathetic Fallacy** – Thunder & Lightning could be **symbolic** of trouble to come?  Supernatural/War/Power (Themes) |
| Act 1 Scene 4 | The King’s Palace | King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Lennox and Attendants.  Macbeth and Banquo, Ross and Angus | Malcolm tells Kind Duncan of the noble death of Cawdor, Duncan announces to all his intention to make Malcolm his heir. He lauds the men for their bravery; Macbeth and Banquo but Macbeth sees the threat to his own kingship from Malcom. Duncan plans to visit Macbeth’s home. | Macbeth Aside.  “The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step  On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap”  Shows his dislike of Malcolm’s position.  Staging in an aside – structure – Shakespeare wants the audience to know but not the other characters.  Ambition/Power (Themes) |
| Act 1 Scene 5 | Macbeth’s home – Dunsinane Castle | Lady Macbeth,  Messenger,  Macbeth, | Lady Macbeth reads the letter from Macbeth and begins to plot so that he can be King. Macbeth arrives and they discuss the news. | Lady Macbeth*” .*. . Come, you spirits  That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full/Of direst cruelty.”  Letter is in **prose**  **Soliloquy**  Supernatural/Power/Deceit/Women |
| Act 1 Scene 6 | Macbeth’s home  Dunsinane Castle | [Hautboys](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/macbeth/macbethglossary/macbeth1_1/macbethglos_hautboy.html) & torches. Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Banquo, Lennox, MacDuff, Ross & Angus and Attendants  Lady Macbeth | Duncan arrives at the castle and is greeted by Lady Macbeth. | “Your servants ever”  Deceit/Power  Two-faced treachery of Lady Macbeth welcoming Duncan while knowing they plan to kill him. |
| Act1 Scene 7 | Macbeth’s Home Dunsinane Castle | Macbeth  Lady Macbeth | Macbeth decides against the plan to kill the King. Lady Macbeth persuade him that he will be less of a man if he doesn’t follow through on his plan to kill Duncan. | Soliloquy  Weakness/Deceit/Death/  Here Lady Macbeth is callous and subverts the expectations of a meek female. |
|  |  |  | Past midnight, Macbeth tells Banquo that they'll speak of the witches another time. Macbeth alone sees dagger, hears his wife's bell, and goes to kill King Duncan. | ‘Is this a dagger I see before me”  “A dagger of the mind”  Soliloquy  Madness/deceit/doubt |