

Shakespeare's Macbeth

Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's several masterpieces that exemplifies tyranny during the middle ages. This play captures many different themes, such as unchecked powers and ambition, as well as throwing in an event that viewers would never expect to occur. This play will keep the audience on their toes, exuberant to find out what will happen next.

The play starts out in an open field with three witches telling Macbeth that he will become the Thane and Cawdor of Glamis. Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, then decide that they need to kill King Duncan. Macbeth kills the king and guards, and tells everyone that the guards murdered King Duncan, so that's why he killed the guards. The real story was that the guards saw Macbeth kill Duncan so he had to try and cover it up. The king's son then runs away, therefore Macbeth becomes the King. Macbeth then orders people to kill his partner Banquo and is then haunted by his ghost later in the play. Macbeth then goes to the witches where he learns three things; First, to fear Macduff. Second, that he doesn't need to worry until the forest walks towards him. Third, he cannot be killed by anyone born of a living woman.

After learning of those three things, Macbeth sets out to kill Macduff and his family, but they had already fled. Lady Macbeth then commits suicide in Act 5 scene 5. After Macbeth finds out about that, he doesn't really care because he knew she was going to die anyway. Now the play cuts back to Macduff leading an army towards Macbeth's castle. They cut down the Birnam trees to use as cover; this causes Macbeth to freak out. Macbeth is eventually beheaded by Macduff. This is possible because Macduff was born by C-section after his mother died, therefore he wasn't born of a living woman.

The play's general setting is back in the middle ages. It specifically focuses on the power hungry kings around the areas of England and Scotland. Many of the scenes

incorporate an open field or a castle. This play was written in the 1600's, but is focused more on the 1100's time era.

The characters in Shakespeare's Macbeth are greatly affected by the actions they take. A great example is the main character, Macbeth. At the beginning of the play, he is a Scottish General and the thane of Glamis. He is loyal to King Duncan at the beginning of the play. As the Witches present themselves and tell him the prophecy, he changes his actions to make it come true. He is positive that the witches are true after they address him by the thane of Cawdor. He is never comfortable with the actions he chooses, as the villain, but is greatly influenced by his wife. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are very close as husband and wife in the beginning. She seems to be the stronger and more ruthless of the two, as she encourages Macbeth to kill Duncan. She is greatly affected by her psyche and eventually takes her life. Their partnership in crime separates them.

There are many noblemen in the play, including Banquo, Macduff, Lennox, and Ross. Lennox and Ross play no vital role, but Banquo and Macduff play vital roles. When the Witches announce the prophecy, Banquo takes the opposite reaction to their calling. Banquo has ambitious thoughts, but does not translate these into action. He is loyal to the King throughout the play. After he is killed by the murders, it is symbolic that the ghost of Banquo haunts Macbeth instead of Duncan because Banquo's choices were the opposite to which Macbeth took. Macduff plays the role of an ordinary nobleman, but after Macbeth orders his wife and children killed, he leads the opposition to kill Macbeth. He does this with the help of the English Army.

Macbeth has many good lines that describe the plot and conflict in one line. William Shakespeare likes to repeat lines, and makes sure that the audience understands what is going on in the story. Macbeth explains how bad he feels for murdering the king many times in the story. Also Mrs. Macbeth talks about how she feels bad for how weak he is and how she persuades him to kill the king. William wanted everyone to know these two big events.

Some important lines and speeches in MacBeth give off a great summary of the play. You have lines that talk about how the three witches predict that MacBeth will become king. Other lines talk about how Mrs. Macbeth helps persuade Macbeth into killing the king. Once he kills the king he has a troublesome guilt. He becomes king and the old king is in his grave. Last but not least the charma and the death of Macbeth.

As you can see, Macbeth is one of the greatest poems of all time. Set in the 1100's power hungry England and scotland era's, it offers many different themes which keeps the audience interested and focused. The plot of Macbeth involves murder, prophecies, insanity and much more making it one of the most interesting plays ever. This play is famous for a good reason and all members of an audience will enjoy it.