

MACBETH

PRIMARY

SOURCES

(THEMES & QUOTES)

THEME OF

AMBITION

Macbeth – “If good, why do I yield to that suggestion/Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair/And make my seated heart knock at my ribs, /Against the use of nature? Present fears Are less than horrible imaginings:/My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical, /Shakes so my single state of man that function/Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is but what is not.” (I.iii.134-142)

Macbeth – “The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step/On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, /For in my way it lies. / Stars, hide your fires;/Let not light see my black and deep desires:/ The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be, / Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.” (I.iv.50-55)

Letter from Macbeth – “This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.” (I.v.10-13)

Lady Macbeth – “That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;/And chastise with the valour of my tongue/All that impedes thee from the golden round, / Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem/To have thee crown'd withal.” (I.v.25-30)

Lady Macbeth – “Stop up the access and passage to remorse, That no compunctious visitings of nature Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between The effect and it!” (I.v.45-49)

Macbeth – “If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well/It were done quickly: if the assassination/Could trammel up the consequence, and catch/With his surcease success” (I.vii.1-4)

Macbeth – “I go, and it is done; the bell invites me. /Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell/That summons thee to heaven or to hell.” (II.i.62-65)

Lady Macbeth – “Go get some water, /And wash this filthy witness from your hand. / Why did you bring these daggers from the place? /They must lie there: go carry them; and smear/The sleepy grooms with blood.” (II.ii.44-48)

Lady Macbeth – “Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead/Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood/That fears a painted devil.” (II.ii.51-53)

Lady Macbeth – “Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us, /And show us to be watchers. Be not lost/So poorly in your thoughts.” (II.ii.68-70)

Lady Macbeth - “Soundly invite him--his two Chamberlains Will I with wine and wassail so convince That memory.” (I.vii.63-65)

Lady Macbeth - “Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers. /The sleeping and the dead are bus as pictures. / Tis the eye of childhood.” (II.ii.50-55)

Macbeth - “To be thus is nothing but to be safely/thus our fears in Banquo slick deep, and in his royalty of nature feigns that which would be feared. / Thou is none last he whole being I do fear.” (III.i.49-55)

Lady Macduff - “To tell his wife, to leave his babes, his mansion and his titles in a place from whence himself does fly.” (IV.ii.6-8)

Macduff - “Hail King! For so thou art./Behold where stands the usurpers cursed head. /The time is free. I see thee compassed with thy kingdom's pearl, that speak my salutations in their minds. (V.viii.54-57)

THEME OF

BETRAYAL

Ross - “Norway himself, with terrible numbers, assisted by that most disloyal traitor, the thane of Cawdor began a dismal conflict.” (I.ii.51-53)

Macbeth – “I am settled, and bend up Each corporal agent to this terrible feat. Away, and mock the time with fairest show:/False face must hide what the false heart doth know.” (I.vii.79-82)

Angus - “With those of Norway, or did line the rebel/With hidden help and vantage, or that with both/He labored in his country's wrack, I know not;/But treasons capital, confessed and proved, /Have overthrown him.” (I, iii, 114-118)

Macbeth - “And take the present horror from the time, /Which now suits with it. / Whiles I threat, he lives. /Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives. /I go,

and it is done. The bell invites me. /Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell/That summons thee to heaven or to hell” (II.i.60-64)

Macbeth - “And put a barren scepter in my grip, thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand, /No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so, For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind; For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered;/Put rancors in the vessel of my peace/Only for them; and mine eternal jewel/Given to the common enemy of man,” (III. i.65-72)

Macbeth - “The castle of Macduff I will surprise, /Seize upon Fife, give to th' edge o' th' sword/His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls/That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool.” (IV.i.155-160)

Lady Macduff - “He had none. /His flight was madness. When our actions do not, Our fears do make us traitors.” (IV, ii, 3-4)

Lady Macduff - “Wisdom! To leave his wife, to leave his babes, /His mansion and his titles in a place/From whence himself does fly? He loves us not” (IV, ii, 6-8)

Macbeth - “There the grown serpent lies. The worm that's fled/Hath nature that in time will venom breed;/No teeth for th' present. Get thee gone. Tomorrow We'll hear ourselves again.” (III.iv.30-33)

Macbeth - “So is he mine; and in such bloody distance/That every minute of his being thrusts/Against my near'st of life. And though I could/With barefaced power sweep him from my sight/And bid my will avouch” (III.i.119-123)

M Macbeth - "Tonight we hold a solemn supper, sir, /and I'll request your presence." (III.i.14-15)

Hecate - "And that distilled by magic spells/ Shall raise such artificial sprites (apparitions)/As by the strength of their illusion/ Shall draw him (Macbeth) on his confusion." (III.v.25-29)

Macbeth - " And with him to leave no rubs nor botches in the work- Fleance, his son, that keeps him company, whose absence is no less than his fathers, must embrace fate of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart." (III.i.133-138)

Macbeth - "Argh! I feel like my mind is full of scorpions, /my dear wife. You know that Banquo and his son Fleance are still alive."(III.ii.37-38)

Angus - “Now does he feel/His secret murders sticking on his hands” (V.ii.16-17)

THEME OF **CORRUPTION**

Lennox - "Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had done it. /Their hands and faces were all badge with blood.

So were their daggers, which unwiped we found upon their pillows." (II.iii.79-82)

Macbeth - "Well then, now have you considered of my speeches?

Know that it was he, in the times past, which held you /under fortune, which you thought had been our innocent self." (III.i.77-80)

Macbeth - "We have scorched the snake, not killed it. /She'll close and be herself whilst our poor Malice/ Remains in danger of her former tooth." (III.ii.15-16)

Macbeth - "She should have died hereafter;/There would have been a time for such a word. /To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, /Creeps in this petty pace from day to day To the last syllable of recorded time, And all our yesterdays have lighted fools The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!" (V.v.17-23)

Macbeth - "He's here in double trust; First, as I am his kinsman and his subject, Strong both against the deed; then, as his host, /Who should against his murderer shut the door, /Not bear the knife myself." (I.vii.12-16)

King Duncan - "There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face. /He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust." (I.ii.11-14)

Malcom - "What will you do? Let's not consort with them:/To show an unfelt sorrow is an office/Which the false man does easy. I'll to England." (II.iii.132-134)

Macbeth - "Both of you/Know Banquo was your enemy." (III.i.114-115)

King Duncan - "No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive over bosom interest." (I.vii.63-68)

Lady Macbeth - "And when goes hence? Tomorrow as he purposes, never shall he that morrow see! (I.v.62-63)

Macbeth - "The Prince of Cumberland! / that is a step/ On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, for in my way it lies. / Stars, hide your fires;/ Let not light see my black and deep desires" (I.iv.50-55)

Macbeth - "Strange things I have in my head, that will to hand, which must be acted ere they may be scanned." (III.iv.139-140)

Lady Macbeth - "Only look up clear; To alter favour ever is to fear: Leave all the rest to me." (I.v.70-73)

Macduff - "New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows/Strike heaven on the face, that it resounds/As if it felt with Scotland and yelled out/Like syllable of dolor." (IV.iii.5-8)

Lady Macbeth - "Come, you spirit That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, /And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full/Of direst cruelty!" (I.v.41-44)

Lady Macbeth - "Come to my woman's breasts, /And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers, /Wherever in your sightless substances." (I.v.48-50)

Macbeth - "go, and it is done; the bell invites me. /Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell/That summons thee to heaven or to hell." (II.i.62-64)

Lady Macbeth - "I have drugg'd their possets, /That death and nature do contend about them, /Whether they live or die." (II.ii.6-8)

Lady Macbeth - "They must lie there: go carry them; and smear/The sleepy grooms with blood." (II.ii.48-49)

Lady Macbeth - "I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;/For it must seem their guilt." (II.ii.53-55)

Macbeth - "Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee? /But yet I'll make assurance double sure, and take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live ..." (IV.i.82-86)

"The castle of Macduff I will surprise; Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword/His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls/That trace him in his line." (IV.i.151-154)

Macbeth - "If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis, it shall make honor for you." (II.i.24-25)

Macbeth - "I am thane of Cawdor. If good, why do I yield to that suggestion? whose horrid image doth unfix my hair and make my seated heart knock at my ribs, against the use of nature?" (I.iii.135-139)

Macbeth - "I have done the deed." (II.ii.13)

Lady Macbeth - "My hands are of your color, but I shame to wear a heart so white." (II.ii.61-62)

Macbeth - "Here's our chief guest." (III.i.11)

Macbeth - "Know that was he, in the times past, which held you so under fortune." (III.i.77)

King Duncan - "No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive/Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death, /And with his former title greet Macbeth." (I.ii.63-65)

Ross - "Alas, poor country! /Almost afraid to know itself. It cannot/Be call'd our mother, but our grave; where nothing, /But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;/ Where sighs and groans and shrieks that rend the air/Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems/ A modern ecstasy; the dead man's knell Is there scarce ask'd for who; and good men's lives/expire before the flowers in their caps, /Dying or ere they sicken." (IV.iii.166-175)

Ross - "Norway himself, /With terrible numbers, assisted by that most disloyal traitor/The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;" (I.ii.51-53)

Macbeth - "Fleance his son, that keeps him company, /Whose absence is no less material to me/Than is his father's, must embrace the fate/Of that dark hour." (III.i.135-138)

Macbeth - "I am in blood/Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more, /Returning were as tedious as go o'er:/Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;/ Which must be acted ere they may be scann'd." (III.iv.136-140)

Macbeth - "I am settled, and bend up/ Each corporal agent to this terrible feat. / Away, and mock the time with fairest show:/False face must hide what the false heart doth know." (I.vii.80-83)

Lady Macbeth - "When Duncan is asleep-- Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey//Soundly invite him--his two chamberlains/Will I with wine and wassail so convince/ That memory, the warder of the brain, /Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason/A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep/Their drenched natures lie as in a death, /What cannot you and I perform upon/The unguarded Duncan? what not put upon/His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt/Of our great quell?" (I.vii.61-72)

THEMES OF

GUILT &

REGRET

Lady Macbeth - "Here's the smell of blood still" (V.i.41)

Macbeth - "Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts, /And take the present horror from the time, /Which now suits with it." (II.i.58-60)

Macbeth - "We will proceed no further in this business: / He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought/ Golden opinions from all sorts of people, / Which would be worn now in their newest gloss, /Not cast aside so soon" (I. vii. 31-35)

Macbeth - "I had most need of blessing, and "Amen" /Stuck in my throat." (II.ii.29-30)

Macbeth - "I am afraid to think what I have done;/ Look on't again I dare not." (II. ii. 48-49)

Macbeth - "To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself." (II.ii.70)

Macbeth - "O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! / Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives." (III.ii.36-37)

Macbeth - "Thou canst not say I did it: never shake/Thy gory locks at me." (III.iv.49-50)

Macbeth - "Come, we'll to sleep. My strange and self-abuse/Is the initiate fear that wants hard use: /We are yet but young in deed." (III.iv.143-144)

Macbeth - "Horrible sight! Now, I see, 'tis true; /For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me, / And points at them for his." (IV.i.122-124)

Lady Macbeth - "Out, damned spot! out, I say! —One: two: why, / then, 'tis time to do't. —Hell is murky! —Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? / What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power /to account? —Yet who would have thought the old /man to have had so much blood in him?" (V.i.35-40)

Lady Macbeth "The thane of Fife had a wife; where is she now? — / What, will these hands ne'er be clean? —No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with this starting" (V.i.42-45)

Lady Macbeth "Here's the smell of the blood still. / All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O!" (V.i.51-53)

Macbeth - "I have almost forgot the taste of fears. The time has been, my senses would have cool'd /To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair /Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir /As life were in't. I have supp'd full with horrors;/ Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts, / Cannot once start me." (V.v.9-15)

Gentlewoman - "She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that: heaven knows what she has known." (V.i.49-50)

Lady Macbeth - "Had he not resembled My father as he slept, I had done't." (II.ii.12-13)

Macbeth - "Prithee, peace:/I dare do all that may become a man;/Who dares do more is none." (I.vii.46-48)

Macbeth - "Of all men else I have avoided thee:/ But get thee back; my soul is too much charged/With blood of thine already." (V.viii.4-6)

Macbeth - "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." (V.v.24-28)

Macbeth - "If 't be so/For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;/For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;/Put rancours in the vessel of my peace/ Only for them; and mine eternal jewel/ Given to the common enemy of man, / To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings! /Rather than so, come fate into the list. / And champion me to the utterance! Who's there!" (III.i.64-73)

Macbeth - "I'll go no more: I am afraid to think what I have done; Look on't again I dare not" (II.ii.49-51)

Macbeth - "My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical, / Shakes so my single state of man that function/Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is/ But what is not." (I.iii.140-143)

Macbeth - "Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd/ Too terrible for the ear: the times have been, /That, when the brains were out, the man would die, And there an end" (III, IV, 77-78)

Lady Macbeth - "Ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep/In the affliction of these terrible dreams/That shake us nightly" (III.ii.8-12)

Macbeth - "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/ Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather/The multitudinous seas incarnadine, /Making the green one red." (II.ii.57-60)

Macbeth - "Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor/ Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more." (II. ii. 40-41)

Macbeth - "O, yet I do repent me of my fury, /That I did kill them." (II.iii.102-103)

Macbeth - "My soul is too much charged With blood of thine already." (V.viii.5-6)

THEME OF

MADNESS

Lady Macbeth - "I have given suck, and know/ How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:/I would, while it was smiling in my face, / Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums, / And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you/Have done to this." (I.vii.54-58)

Gentlewoman - "This disease is beyond my practise: yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds." (V.i.49-51)

Macbeth - "Bring it after me. I will not be afraid of death and bane, Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane" (V.iii.61-63)

Macbeth - "Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo. Down! / Thy crown does sear mine eyeballs. And thy hair, / Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first." (IV.i.112-115)

Macbeth - "Is this a dagger which I see before me, /The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee./ I have thee not, and yet I see thee still./ Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible/ To feeling as to sight? or art thou but A dagger of the mind, a false creation, Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?/I see thee yet, in form as palpable As this which now I draw./ Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going; And such an instrument I was to use. Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,/ Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,/ And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,/ Which was not so before. There's no such thing: It is the bloody business which informs Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half world/ Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse/ The curtain's sleep; witchcraft celebrates/ Pale Hecate's offerings, and withered murder, /

Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf, /
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his
stealthy pace. / With Tarquin's
ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-
set earth, / Hear not my steps, which
way they walk, for fear/ Thy very stones
prate of my whereabouts, / And take the
present horror from the time, / Which
now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he
lives:/ Words to the heat of deeds too
cold breath gives.

A bell rings

**I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.
(II.i.33-56)**

Macbeth - "Me thought I heard a voice cry
'Sleep no more! / Macbeth does murder
sleep', the innocent sleep," (II.ii.40-42)

Macbeth - "I'll guarantee my own fate by
having you kill; Macduff." (IV.i.83)

Macbeth - "These deeds must not be
thought/ After these ways; so, it will make
us mad." (II.ii.32-33)

Macbeth - "A dagger of the mind, a false
creation, / Proceeding from the heat-
oppressed brain?" (II.i.38-39)

Lady Macbeth - "What beast was't, then,
that made you break/ this enterprise to
me... Have done to this" (I.vii.49-53)

Lady Macbeth "Prithee, see there! Behold!
Look! Lo! How say you? Why, what care
I?/ If thou canst nod, speak too.
(III.iv.69-70)

Macbeth - "Horrible sight! Now I see 'tis
true; /for the blood-bolstered Banquo
smiles
upon me and points at them for his."
(IV.i.122-124)

Lady Macbeth "Come, you spirit
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me
here, /And fill me from the crown to the
toe top-full/ Of direst cruelty!" (I.v.40-42))

Lady Macbeth - "It was the owl that
shrieked, the fatal bellman, /Which gives
the stern'st good-night." (II.ii.3-4)

Macbeth - "Thou sure and firm-set earth, /
Hear not my steps, which way they walk,
for fear/ Thy very stones prate of my
whereabouts" (II.i.56-58)

THEMES OF REVENGE & TEMPTATION

Macbeth - "And bid my will avouch it, yet
I must not, for certain friends that are both
his and mine," (III.i.121-123)

Macbeth - "It is concluded. Banquo, thy
soul's flight, if it find heaven, must find it
out to-night." (III.i.142)

Murderer - "O, treachery! Fly, good
Fleance, fly, fly, fly! Thou mayst revenge.
O slave!" (III.iii.18-19)

Macbeth - "Treason has done his worst."
(III.ii.20)

Lady Macbeth - "Glamis thou art, and
Cawdor; and shalt be /What thou art
promised: yet do I fear thy nature; It is too
full o' the/milk of human kindness."
(I.v.14-17)

Macbeth - "It will have blood, they say.
Blood will have blood.
Stones have been known to move, and
trees to speak (to bring guilty men to
justice.) (III.iv.122-125)

Macbeth - "The devil himself could not
pronounce a title/More hateful to mine
ear." (V.vii.8-9)

Macduff - "O, I could play the woman
with mine eyes and braggart with my
tongue! But, gentle heavens ..."
(IV.iii.230-232)

Banquo - "O, treachery! Fly, good
Fleance, fly, fly, fly!/Thou mayst revenge.
O slave!" (III.iii.18-19)

Macduff - "I have no words:/My voice is
in my sword: thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out!"
(V.viii.7-9)

Mesteth - "Revenge burn in them, for their
dear causes would to the bleeding and ..."
(V.ii.3-5)

Macbeth - "The Prince of Cumberland!
that is a step/ On which I must fall down,
or else o'erleap, /For in my way it lies.
Stars, hide your fires;/Let not light see my
black and deep desires:/The eye wink at
the hand; yet let that be, /Which the eye
fears, when it is done, to see."
(I.iv.67-72)

Macbeth - "Cannot be ill, cannot be good:
if ill, /Why hath it given me earnest of
success, / Commencing in a truth? I am
thane of Cawdor" (I.iii.132-134)

Macbeth - "So far the witches have told
me two things that came true, /so it seems
like this will culminate in my becoming
king. / Thank you, gentlemen. This
supernatural temptation doesn't seem like
it can be a bad thing, but it can't be good
either." (I.iii.130-134)

Malcolm - "Be comforted. Let's make us
med'cines of our great revenge, / To core
his deadly grief."(IV.iii.218-220)

Macbeth - (*aside to BANQUO*) Do you
not hope your children shall be kings, /
When those that gave the thane of Cawdor
to me/Promised no less to them? /
That, trusted home, might yet enkindle you
unto the crown, Besides the thane of
Cawdor. But 'tis strange./And oftentimes,
to win us to our harm, /The instruments of
darkness tell us truths" (I.iii.123-126)

Lennox - "Tis two or three, my lord, that
bring you word/Macduff is fled to
England." (IV.i.141-142)

Macbeth - "It's just like they said – now
I'm the Thane of Glamis/and the Thane of
Cawdor. /And the best part of what they
predicted is still to come."

Macduff - "That way the noise is. Tyrant,
show thy face! / If thou be'st slain and with
no stroke of mine, /My wife and children's
ghosts will haunt me still."
(V.vii.14-16)