

Plot			
1.1	A storm. 3 witches plan to meet M.	3 · 4	Banquet scene. M sees B's ghost, unsettles guests.
1.2	KD's army has defeated rebels. Executes Thane of Cawdor, title to M.	3 · 5	Hecate tells WS their prophecies will destroy M.
1.3	WS tell M he will be ToC & king, and B his sons will be kings. Ross tells M he is thane.	3 · 6	Suspicion of M are discussed as well as reports that McD in Eng to join Mal.
1.4	D praises M and B, names Mal as next king, and plans visit to M's castle.	4 · 1	WS tell M he is safe until the wood comes alive & that he cannot be harmed by one 'of women born'.
1.5	LM reads M's letter about WS. He arrives: she persuades him to kill KD.	4 · 2	M's men kill Lady McD and children.
1.6	LM welcomes KD and court.	4 · 3	McD joins Mal. News of murder of McD's family. Agree to invade Scot.
1.7	M decides not to murder D; LM changes his mind.	5 · 1	LM observed sleepwalking.
2.1	M meets B & Fleance. He sees dagger leading him to KD's room.	5 · 2	M's army invades; Scot rebels join.
2.2	M kills KD, but brings daggers. LM takes back to frame grooms. Knock at gate.	5 · 3	M's supporters are deserting. Doc can't cure LM.
2.3	McD discovers KD dead. M kills grooms. KD's sons flee.	5 · 4	Mal's army cuts branches as camouflage.
2.4	McD reports grooms killed KD, KD's sons fled, and M is chosen for king.	5 · 5	M told of LM's death & wood is advancing. Doubts WS.
3.1	B suspects M. M plans to kill B and Fleance.	5 ·	Mal's army attacks.

Context	
<b>Witches:</b> King James believed in witches, and wrote <i>Daemonologie</i> , a book about witches powers which included their powers, such as creating storms. Many people believed him, and witches were popular on stage.	
<b>Weather Portents:</b> Superstitious members of Shakespeare's audience made predications about their lives based on the weather, for example some people thought thunder was a sign of an imminent death, and an East wind represents evil, as alluded to in <i>The Bible</i> .	
<b>Equivocation:</b> In Elizabethan and Jacobean England, Protestantism was the only legal religion and fines and punishments were given to Catholics. Jesuit priests developed the doctrine of equivocation: they could say one thing but mean another, meaning they could lie even under oath.	
<b>Gender Roles:</b> Women were considered subordinate to men. They took status from men in society, and LM's role as a nobleman's wife was to manage the household and entertain. For men, in Scotland especially, there was a <b>warrior culture</b> where men were seen to be bloodthirsty. Ultimately, women were seen to be weak bodied and men as powerful, dominant beings. It can be argued that Shakespeare uses <i>Macbeth</i> to subvert these traditional gender roles.	
<b>Prophecies:</b> People believed in prophecies in Shakespeare's time: Queen Elizabeth and King James frequently used astrologers to predict their futures. Many Christians believed the devil could use false or misleading prophecies to tempt people into evil. Banquo is worried the witches prophecies are traps designed to make Macbeth do terrible things: this would be obvious to an Elizabethan audience. However, once the first prophecy comes true Macbeth's belief is so strong that he bases his decisions on them.	
<b>Regicide and Restoration:</b> The reformation in the Sixteenth Century made some people think differently about regicide. As it was normal for the monarch to decide the religion of the country, some extremists plotted assassinations (for example the <b>1605 gunpowder plot</b> ) in an attempt to switch the country's religion. The theory of <b>divine right of kings</b> (based on the principles of <b>the great chain of being</b> ) justified the king's absolute authority in both political and spiritual matters. Most people in Shakespeare's original audiences would have been shocked at the idea of killing a king.	
<b>Succession:</b> For Shakespeare's audience, succession- how one king or queen followed the last- was an important political issue. From about 1590, people worried about who would succeed Queen Elizabeth as she had no children. When James was declared the next King of England, he chose Shakespeare and his fellow actors as his royal company, The King's Men, which seems to have directly influenced Shakespeare to write <i>Macbeth</i> (a play, ultimately, about Scotland and succession).	
<b>Tragic Hero:</b> According to <b>Aristotle</b> , tragic heroes start off as great or excellent, but they have a fatal flaw (hamartia)- often pride (hubris). This leads to a reversal of fortunes (peripeteia) and the heroes downfall.	
<b>Adjectives to describe Character</b>	
<b>Lady Macbeth:</b> manipulative / dominant / weak / powerful / emasculating / controlling / hypocritical / remorseful / cunning / Machiavellian / sensual	
<b>Macbeth:</b> indecisive / ambitious / impulsive / intuitive / callous / tyrannical / duplicitous / zealous / contemplative / ruthless / weak	
<b>Banquo:</b> loyal / paternal / intuitive / virtuous / shrewd / diplomatic	
<b>Duncan:</b> ignorant / naïve / trusting / respectful / weak / moral / respected	
<b>Macduff:</b> aggressive / reckless / neglectful / heroic / emotional	
<b>Lady Macduff:</b> ignorant / critical / naïve	
<b>Wyrd Sisters:</b> sinister / scheming / prophetic	

Vocabulary
autocratic
hubris
infanticide
issue
massacre
maternal
morality
paternal
purgatory
regicide
tragedy
treason
tyrant
uprising
Terminology
aside
soliloquy
symbolism
motif
foreshadow
resolution
climax
catharsis
hamartia
peripeteia
pentameter
pathetic fallacy
protagonist



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English Literature : *Macbeth*



# Key Quotations



AQA

Macbeth Key Quotations

1.1	<b>'Fair is foul and foul is fair'</b> The witches instantly create an ambiguous atmosphere.		3. 4	<b>'Hence, horrible shadow'</b> Macbeth orders Banquo's ghost to disappear.	
1.2	<b>'He unseamed him from the nave to th' chops'</b> Macbeth's brutal killing of the rebel Macdonwald.		3. 5	<b>'A wayward son, spiteful and wrathful'</b> Hecate's description of Macbeth.	
1.3	<b>'What! Can the devil speak true?'</b> Banquo's shock when the witches prediction comes true.		3. 6	<b>'Our suffering country, under an accursed hand.'</b> Lennox laments the state of Scotland under Macbeth's reign.	
1.4	<b>'Let not light see my black and deep desires'</b> Macbeth struggles to hide his desire to kill the king.		4. 1	<b>'Something wicked this way comes'</b> Witches describe Macbeth's approach.	
1.5	<b>'It is too full of the milk of human kindness'</b> Lady Macbeth worries Macbeth is too weak to murder.		4. 2	<b>'Wisdom! To leave his wife, his babes?'</b> Lady Macduff criticizes her husband.	
1.6	<b>'This castle hath a pleasant seat'</b> Duncan ironically states Macbeth's castle is a lovely place.		4. 3	<b>'What, all my pretty chickens?'</b> Macduff's utter grief when he discovers his family's slaughter.	
1.7	<b>'Vaulting ambition / Which overleaps itself'</b> Macbeth recognizes his ambition is running away with him		5. 1	<b>'Out, damned spot, out I say!'</b> Lady Macbeth's guilt cannot be washed away.	
2.1	<b>'Is this a dagger which I see before me?'</b> Macbeth sees a vision of a dagger.		5. 2	<b>'Like a giant's robe on a dwarfish thief.'</b> Angus's description of Macbeth.	
2.2	<b>'A little water clears us of this deed'</b> Lady Macbeth believes they can wash away the evidence.		5. 3	<b>'No man born of woman shall ever have power upon thee.'</b> Macbeth reminds himself that he is infallible.	
2.3	<b>'Oh horror, horror, horror!'</b> Macduff's utter disgust upon finding Duncan's corpse.		5. 4	<b>'Let every soldier hew him down a bough'</b> Malcolm orders his soldiers to cut down trees for camouflage.	
2.4	<b>'No cousin, I'll to Fife.'</b> Macduff goes home opposed to attending the coronation.		5. 5	<b>'Life's but a walking shadow'</b> Macbeth voices his despair about the hopelessness of life.	
3.1	<b>'I fear thou play'st most foully for it'</b> Banquo begins to recognize Macbeth is scheming.		5. 6	<b>'Worthy Macduff'</b> Malcolm's description of Macduff as he leads the army into war.	
3.2	<b>'O full of scorpions is my mind!'</b> Macbeth's mental state begins to deteriorate.		5. 7	<b>'But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn'</b> Macbeth revels in the belief he cannot be killed.	

Ambition and Power	Appearance and Reality	Good and Evil	Equivocation and Ambiguity	Guilt and Justice	Kingship And Scotland	Supernatural And Witchcraft	Order and Disorder
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