

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare
A collaborative activity for KS4

Teachers' notes



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These materials have been developed to improve access to GCSE coursework on Macbeth. It may be particularly helpful for classes including bilingual learners or pupils with limited literacy skills.

Included in this pack is a list of characters sheet, a set of 7 character sheets and answer sheets for interactive role play, the characters being Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Duncan, Macduff, Lady Macduff and The Witches.

Purpose

These materials are designed to develop collaborative learning and problem solving through highly focused talk. In so doing they provide a rounded view of the key characters, main characters and key quotes from the play. Essentially it teaches through highly structured interactional role play.

The Pack

There are seven character sheets: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, The Witches, Banquo, Duncan, Macduff and Lady Macduff. Each character sheet contains information and perspectives on the play. Each sheet is written from a character's experience and point of view and contain key quotes from the play.

On the back of each sheet is a set of questions. The questions can only be answered by interviewing the other characters.

Using the Character Sheets

Grouping needs to be thought out ahead of time. Make sure that any pupils in particular need of support are grouped sensitively with others who are likely to be able to give it.

Pupils need to have a sticker, a clipboard, some paper and a pen. They should write the numbers 1 - 6 on the paper for the questions and the names of their characters - both on the paper and on a sticker.

The sticker should be stuck to the pupil.

They will need to be able to move freely around the classroom.

Duplicate enough sheets for 1 character per pupil. This will mean that several pupils are 'being' each character although they may be in a different group.

The list of characters sheet should be enlarged to A3 and posted on the board for pupils to refer to.

Explain to the pupils that they are going to be both looking for and giving information. This means

- a) That they have to ensure that they all read and understand the text in their groups
- b) That they try to deduce which other character is likely to be able to answer which of their questions.

e.g. Macbeth's question "Why did Macduff suspect you so quickly?" is probably going to be answered by Macduff or Lady Macduff. Sometimes it will only be by trial and error.

Groups should be encouraged to develop their own strategies for completing the task. Some may decide to work completely together; some may decide to allocate tasks. Deciding how to go about this is part of the collaborative nature of the task.

Pupils usually get used to the format fairly quickly. Some may need some guidance like

"Who do you think might know that?"

"Why not ask a witch?"

Some EAL learners may need the questions phrasing for them and more direction. Go to Lady Macbeth. Say "What did you think of your husband?" However the pupils should largely be encouraged to support each other.

When a group has finished, their answers should be corrected and they should become another character. Ensure that they change their name stickers and that the finished 'character' is rapidly covered by another group. This process can be repeated as often as desired.

Follow up discussion could focus on things that have been learned about the play and ways in which the pupils organised themselves.

The Character Sheets



The characters in the story of Macbeth

King Duncan -King of Scotland

Macbeth- A general and cousin of King Duncan

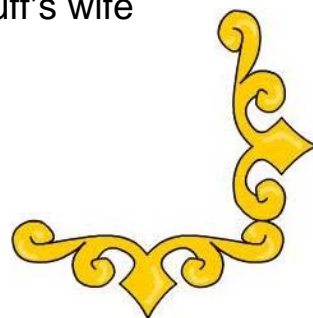
Lady Macbeth- Macbeth's wife

Banquo- Another general of King Duncan and a friend of Macbeth

Macduff- Thane of Fife. A Thane is like an English Lord or Nobleman

Lady Macduff – Macduff's wife

The Witches



Answers

Duncan

1. Macbeth could not be beaten until Birnham wood marches on Dunsinane Hill.
2. "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth"
3. I made Macbeth Thane of Cawder because he fought well in battle and is a very loyal subject.
4. After her husband went to England Lady Macduff felt sad, lonely and upset.
5. On the night of my death Macduff was on business That night it was very stormy.
6. "These ministers of darkness tell us truths in little things. To betray us into deeds of greatest consequence." Banquo said this.

Macbeth

1. MacDuff suspected me so quickly because I killed the only two witnesses so quickly.
2. Duncan was my cousin.
3. The armed head told me to beware of the Thane of Fife.
4. My wife thinks I am a good man but need to be more ambitious.
5. There were 8 kings in Banquo's line.
6. "Not in the legions of horrid hell can come a devil more damned in evils to top Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth

1. After Duncan's death Banquo put himself into the hands of God.
2. Macbeth's banquet followed Macbeth's coronation.
3. Macduff's title was Thane of Fife and he lived in Fife.
4. House martins lived in my castle at Inverness.
5. The witches told my husband he would become Thane of Cawdor and then king.
6. "Is this a dagger I see before me? Come let me clutch thee" said by Macbeth.

Banquo

1. Macbeth was killed at the palace at Dunsinane by Macduff.
2. After my death Lady Macbeth became mad and died.
3. Lady Macduff saw her son murdered.
4. The soldiers disguised themselves as trees when they marched on Dunsinane castle.
5. The first Thane of Cawdor had been killed by the orders of Duncan because he had betrayed his country.
6. "Double, double, toil and trouble. Fire burn and cauldron bubble" said by the witches.

MacDuff

1. Macbeth thought that Duncan was a good king and had treated him well.
2. "Out damned spot" The perfumes of Arabia could not make the hand smell sweet and take away the smell of the blood.
3. Banquo was a general in Duncan's army and he worked with Macbeth.
4. Duncan's body was taken to Colmekill. Duncan's family vault was there.
5. The last words heard by Duncan were 'Murder! Amen! Bless us!'
6. The goose was from the galleon, the finger was from a dead child, the pig's blood was from a pig whom had eaten her own young
All three are linked to death in some way.

Lady Macduff

1. "Lesser than Macbeth and greater! Not so happy but much happier. Thou shalt get kings, though not be none."
2. My husband was born by caesarean section.
3. King Duncan was Malcolm and Donalbain's father.
4. The witches put the following parts of the creatures in the potion – a newt's eye, a dog's tongue, a lizard's leg, an owl's wing, a dragon's scale and a wolf's tooth.
5. Macbeth felt he had to kill Banquo because the witches had told him that Banquo's son would become king.
6. Lady Macbeth planted the dagger on Duncan's groom after Duncan's murder.

The witches

1. "Macbeth hath murdered sleep. Macbeth shall sleep no more."
2. Lady Macbeth asked the guests to leave the banquet because she was afraid that Macbeth would talk about Duncan's murder and even confess as he seemed very unsettled.
3. After Fife Macduff went to England to join Duncan's son, Malcolm.
4. Banquo attended the banquet as a ghost.
5. Duncan's grooms were killed by Macbeth.
6. Duncan did enjoy visiting Macbeth.