

# Study Guide 2024-2025



## Florida Standards

### Language Arts

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details  
LAFS.910.RH.1: Key Ideas and Details  
LAFS.112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration  
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes  
LAFS.112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details  
LAFS.910.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

### Theater

TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts  
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential

**PG-13**

Language, Use of Alcohol, Sexual Themes, Violence, Frightening Content

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.

# *Macbeth*

## *Table of Contents*

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	3
<b>Enjoying Live Theater</b>	
Theater is a Team Sport . . . . .	4
The Actor/Audience Relationship . . . . .	5
<b>About the Play</b>	
Plot Summary . . . . .	6
Meet the Characters . . . . .	7
Meet the Playwright . . . . .	8
Historical Context . . . . .	11
<b>Lesson Plan: Page to Stage</b> . . . . .	12
<b>Activities</b>	
Shakespeare Taboo . . . . .	15
Paraphrasing . . . . .	19
Write a Review . . . . .	20
<b>Discussion &amp; Themes</b> . . . . .	21

# *Macbeth*

## *An Introduction*

Educators:

Thank you for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to bring the joy of theatre arts to your classroom. We are well aware of the demands on your time and it is our goal to offer you supplemental information to compliment your curriculum with ease and expediency.

Please take a moment to explore our website at [orlandoshakes.org/education](http://orlandoshakes.org/education) for the following ways to add to your curriculum.

- “On your feet “ activities to energize students
- Shortened Shakespeare scripts that range from 60 – 120 minutes long that are perfect for school productions
- Study Guide Spotlights for quick reference to the standards addressed in each production

We look forward to hosting you at the Lowndes Shakespeare Theater. Additionally, should you wish to bring our Actor/Educators into your classroom, we will work around your schedule. Feel free to contact us at Orlando Shakes should you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you. We are always learning from you.

Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering  
Director of Education

Keith Traver  
Education Coordinator



# Macbeth

## Enjoying Live Theater

### Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** build the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

### Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.



# *Macbeth*

## *Enjoying Live Theater*

### **The Actor/Audience Relationship**

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged and to live the story with us!



Photo: Rob Jones

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.

### **Talkback**

After the performance, the actors will stay on stage for about 10 minutes to hear your comments and answer any questions you have about the play and the production. We'd love to hear what you felt about the play, what things were clear or unclear to you, and hear your opinions about what the play means. This last portion of the Actor/Audience Relationship is so important to help us better serve you and enrich your artistic experience.

Consider the Themes and Key Questions above and ask yourself:

1. What Key Questions did the play answer?
2. Do you agree with everything the play said about these themes?
3. How did the actors, directors, and designers all address these themes?
4. What opinion did the artists bring to the process, did those opinions change throughout the process (designing, rehearsing, performing) and how did that impact their work?

# Macbeth

## About the Play

### Summary

On a barren Scottish heath, three witches await the coming of Macbeth and Banquo, Scottish generals on their way home after a victorious battle. At the same time, on a battlefield not far away, a wounded soldier tells Duncan, king of Scotland, of Macbeth's great courage in battle, then the Thane of Ross arrives to inform the king of the traitorous actions of the Thane of Cawdor. **The king immediately sentences the Thane of Cawdor to death and confers that title upon Macbeth**, sending Ross to tell Macbeth of the new honor.

When Macbeth and Banquo arrive at the eerie site of the witches, the three prophesy that Macbeth (still uninformed of his new title) shall become the Thane of Cawdor and later on shall be king, while Banquo shall be the father of kings although not one himself. When the Thane of Ross arrives and addresses Macbeth with the new title, the witches' prophecies already seem to be coming true, and **Macbeth begins to wonder if the kingship could really be within his reach**.

However, when he reports to **King Duncan**, the king announces two intentions: first, of visiting Macbeth's castle in gratitude of his valor and, second, of **making his son Malcolm heir to his throne**.

The scene switches to Macbeth's castle, where his wife, Lady Macbeth, is reading a letter from her husband detailing the witches' prophecies and their accuracy thus far. She sets her sights on becoming queen

and plans to murder the king when he visits her home; she calls on the power of evil to help her stifle feminine weakness and spur Macbeth to action.

That evening, while the king sleeps in his home, **Macbeth**, with his wife's urging and assistance, carries out the act, **murdering King Duncan in his bed**. The king's sons flee the country in terror, and Macbeth is crowned king of Scotland. But he is haunted by the prediction that Banquo's children are to inherit the throne and fearful that Macduff, a noble suspicious of Macbeth's quick rise to power, will take matters into his own hands.

Therefore, **Macbeth brutally arranges for the murder of Banquo and his only son, Fleance; however, Fleance escapes the attack and flees the country**. Macbeth gives a great dinner for the court and is about to take his seat when he sees the ghost of Banquo (invisible to the guests), and his frenzied and incriminating remarks break up the feast and raise Macduff's suspicions even more.

Macbeth goes now to consult the witches. **They warn him to beware of Macduff**. However, they also assure, much to his comfort, him that no man born of a woman can harm him and that he cannot be defeated until Birnam Wood, a medieval forest, comes to Dunsinane, the site of Macbeth's castle. After this, he is greeted with the news that Macduff has fled to England, whereupon Macbeth, in increasing paranoia orders

the murder of Lady Macduff and her children.

While this is all happening, Lady Macbeth, who before the king's murder appeared to be stronger than her husband, becomes completely overcome by remorse and guilt and, with an unsettled mind, dies, probably by her own hand.

Macduff, gathering forces with the escaped Malcolm in England, is in complete revolt now and leads an **army against Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane**, the soldiers covering their advance with branches cut from the trees of Birnam Wood, making it appear that Birnam Wood is coming to Dunsinane. Macbeth's nerves are shaken as he recalls the witches prophecies, but he still clings to their saying that he cannot be harmed by any man born of woman. However, the castle is attacked, and during his final hand-to-hand conflict with Macduff, Macbeth learns that his opponent was prematurely ripped from his mother's womb, a Caesarean birth. **Macbeth realizes he is doomed** but, rather than being captured alive, fights to his death. Macduff kills him, cuts off his head, and announces Scotland's freedom from tyranny.

Courtesy: Sacramento Theatre Company

# *Macbeth*

## *About the Play*

### *Meet the Characters*

**Duncan, King of Scotland:** The father of Malcolm and Donalbain, A good king under whom the kingdom flourished.

**Malcolm:** The eldest son of King Duncan and brother of Donalbain, Malcolm is named the heir to the throne by his father.

**Donalbain:** The son of King Duncan and brother of Malcolm, Donalbain flees with his brother after the murder.

**Macbeth:** The husband of Lady Macbeth, a general in the army, and later the king of Scotland, Macbeth is courageous and respected. He holds the title of Thane of Glamis before the play begins and is named Thane of Cawdor for his valor on the battlefield.

**Banquo:** The father of Fleance and a faithful general in the Scottish army, Banquo initially is a good friend of Macbeth, but becomes an object of Macbeth's wrath when it appears he or his children could interfere with Macbeth's tenuous grasp on the throne.

**Macduff:** A Scottish nobleman, Macduff becomes increasingly suspicious of Macbeth, eventually mounting an uprising against the new king. In the end, it is Macduff that kills Macbeth in battle.

**Ross:** A Scottish nobleman faithful to Duncan and Macduff, Ross is the first to address Macbeth by his new title, Thane of Cawdor, fanning the spark of ambition that quickly turns murderous.

**Menteith, Angus, Caithness, Lennox:** Scottish nobleman.

**Fleance:** Son of Banquo, Fleance escapes Macbeth's murderous rampage and flees to England where he helps Macduff mount the insurrection that unthrones Macbeth.

**Siwald, Earl of Northumberland:** General of the English forces, Siwald teams up with Malcolm, Macduff, and Fleance in their fight against Macbeth.

**Young Siwald:** The son of Siwald. **Seyton:** An officer attending on Macbeth

**Lady Macbeth:** In contrast to her husband who initially resists his murderous impulses, Lady Macbeth seems to embrace them immediately.

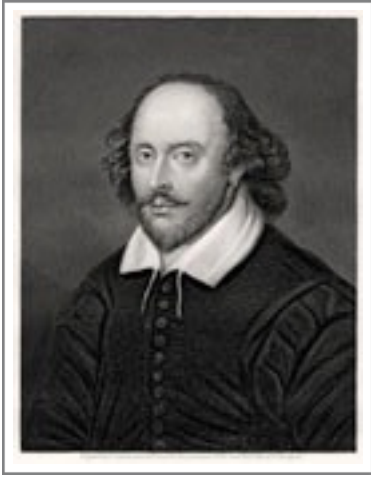
**Lady Macduff:** The wife of Macduff, she and all her children are killed by the now-ruthless Macbeth.

**Three Witches:** Referred to as the "weird sisters," witches, and sometimes old hags, these three mysterious beings plant the seeds of murder and ambition in Macbeth, when they prophesy that he will become king.

# Macbeth

## About the Play

### Meet the Playwright



William Shakespeare is a mystery. He never went to college, only the local grammar school, but ended up writing the most famous plays in the history of the world. How did it happen? Nobody really knows.

We know very little about Shakespeare's personal life, his childhood and his marriage when you think about the impact he's had on our world. We have none of Shakespeare's letters, diaries, or original manuscripts. All we have is his signature on a couple of legal documents. In fact, the lack of information on him has made a lot of people argue that he never really wrote all those plays or even existed at all!

Never forget, Shakespeare wrote his plays to be **PERFORMED** not read. Never sit down to READ one of his plays if you don't know it. Get up and try **ACTING IT OUT**. You'll be surprised how much you'll understand. Reading Shakespeare is **ALWAYS** hard, Performing him is **EASY**.

Will wrote over 40 plays, but only 37 have survived. He wrote every kind of story you can think of- tragedies, comedies, histories. 22 of his plays were about **WAR**. Guess he had human nature down... In his plays you can find teenagers fighting with their parents, teenagers running away, teenagers falling in love, ghosts, gods, witches,

drunks, murderers, a woman caressing her lover's body minus its head, a woman caressing her lover's head minus its body, weddings, funerals, death by stabbing, suffocation, poison, decapitation, spiking, hanging, execution, being made into a meat-pie, and drowning in a vat of wine. The point is that Shakespeare did it ALL!

Everybody went to see Shakespeare's plays: children, peasants, royalty, merchants, every kind of person from every social group and clique. It was the one place where a beggar could rub elbows with the rich and famous. Remember there were no televisions, no radios, no magazines, and only the beginnings of newspapers. Not that newspapers mattered much considering most people **COULDN'T** read or write! Aside from the plays, there were bear-baitings, cockfights, bull-baitings and if you were lucky, the occasional execution. That was all. Seeing one of his plays was something like a cross between a Magic basketball game and a rock concert. It was noisy, crazy, usually messy, and a whole lot of fun.

#### Shakespeare's Early Years

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He died on the exact same day fifty-two years later, in 1616. He lived during what was called the Elizabethan Era because at that time the queen of England was Queen Elizabeth I.

William Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was a glovemaker by trade and ran a 'general store'. He was a prominent citizen in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon and even served as mayor for a term. The very first mention of John Shakespeare is in 1552. He was fined for keeping a 'dunghill' in front of his house. When William was eight years old, his father's fortunes started to decline. His father stopped going to church meetings and town council meetings, and his application for a coat-

of-arms was turned down. A 'coat-of-arms' was an important status symbol in Elizabethan England. Today it would be like the U.S. Government and everybody else in the country recognizing that you and your family were upper class and treating you like you were somebody important. Basically, you got invited to all the 'A-List' parties. Nobody knows why John Shakespeare's mysterious decline occurred.

Shakespeare's mother was Mary Arden, a young lady from a prominent Catholic family. She married John Shakespeare in 1557 and they had seven children. William's older sisters Joan and Margaret died when they were babies. His younger sister Anne died when he was fifteen. The most of what we know about his three younger brothers is the youngest was named Edmund and that he later became an actor in London. Edmund died at age twenty-seven and was buried in London. We don't really know much about Shakespeare's other two brothers.





# Macbeth

## About the Play

### Meet the Playwright

As far as Shakespeare's education, even less is known. We assume he went to the local public grammar/elementary school in Stratford, but there are no records to prove it. We're also pretty sure he never went to college or university (pretty incredible when you consider Shakespeare invented over 2500 words that we still use everyday- including the words "puke", "eyeball", and "vulnerable"). In fact, after his baptism the next record we have of William Shakespeare is his marriage in 1582 to Anne Hathaway. William was eighteen years old when he married and Anne was twenty-six. Anne was also several months pregnant! Susanna, Shakespeare's first child, was born in 1583. Two years later, Shakespeare and Anne had twins, Judith and Hamnet. Sadly, Hamnet died only eleven years later. There is no record of his cause of death. William was deeply affected by his only son's death and after it spent more time in Stratford, traveling to London only for important theater business.

#### The London Years

Nobody knows exactly when William Shakespeare moved to London or how he supported himself once he got there. We do know he was an actor before he was a playwright. Even when he was thriving as a playwright, he still found time to act in his own plays. He played roles such as Adam in *As You Like It* and the ghost of Hamlet's father in *Hamlet*.

In 1589-92, Shakespeare's first plays were all HITS in London. By 1594, Shakespeare's own acting troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, became the premier acting company in London.

In 1598, Shakespeare built his famous theater- The Globe Theater. It was located on the south bank of the Thames River in London. The new theater's motto was "Totus mundus agit

histrionem" or in English instead of Latin "All the world's a stage".

The Globe Theater could accommodate over 3,000 spectators and admission in the early 1600's was one penny. The Globe had twenty sides and was an "open-air" theater, meaning there was no roof in the center. What roof there was, was thatched (made of hay). The rest of the building was made of wood. From above it looked like a large donut. Performances were given every day from 2-5 in the afternoon (so the sunlight wouldn't bother the audience or the actors) except Sunday. The beginning of a show was signaled by three blasts from a trumpet and a flag raised at the same time: black for tragedy, red for history, and white for comedy. Why didn't they just pass out leaflets? Going to plays was considered immoral and advertising for plays was prohibited. Yet, everybody came! Vendors at the shows sold beer, water, oranges, gingerbread, apples, and nuts. All of these were THROWN at the actors if the audience didn't like the show! Audience members also frequently talked back to the actors. For example, if a murderer was sneaking up on somebody, the audience usually screamed out "LOOK BEHIND YOU!"

On June 29, 1613, the Globe Theater burned to the ground. It was during a performance of *Henry the Eighth*. The cannon shots that were fired to 'announce the arrival of the king' during the first act of the play misfired and engulfed the thatched roof in flames. One man's breeches (pants) caught on fire but before he got hurt badly somebody dumped their beer on him and put it out! While the rest of the audience escaped unharmed, The Globe Theater was completely destroyed. Thirty years later, an ordinance (law) was passed to close all theatres. Acting and plays were outlawed because they were considered immoral.

#### The Later Years

Back in Stratford, William Shakespeare enjoyed his retirement and his status as 'Gentleman'. He purchased 'New House', the second largest home in Stratford-upon-Avon and often invited his friends and fellow artists over to hang out. One such visit is recorded in the journal of John Ward, a vicar in Stratford. He wrote, "Shakespeare, Drayton, and Ben Johnson had a merry meeting, and it seems drank too hard, for Shakespeare died of a fever there contracted". Shakespeare indeed died thereafter and was buried in his family's church in Stratford on his birthday in 1616.

In all, Shakespeare had written over 40 plays in two years. Two members of his acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, published all the plays they could find in 1623. This collection of 37 of Shakespeare's plays has come to be known as The First Folio. If it had not been for these two men, John Heminges and Henry Condell, we might have no record of William Shakespeare's work and the world as we know it would be a very different place. In the preface to the Folio these men wrote, "We have but collected them (the plays) and done an office to the dead... without ambition either of self-profit or fame; only to keep the memory of so worthy a friend alive, as was our Shakespeare".

Shakespeare's friend and fellow playwright Ben Johnson wrote this about Shakespeare when William died- "... I loved the man, and do honor his memory as much as any. He was indeed honest, and of an open and free nature: had excellent fantasies, brave notions, and gentle expressions..."

# Macbeth

## About the Play

### Meet the Playwright

#### Shakespeare's Plays

1589	<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	1601	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
1590	<i>Henry VI, Part II</i> <i>Henry VI, Part III</i>	1602	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
1591	<i>Henry VI, Part I</i>	1604	<i>Othello</i> <i>Measure for Measure</i>
1592	<i>Richard III</i>	1605	<i>King Lear</i> <i>Macbeth</i>
1593	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> <i>Titus Andronicus</i>	1606	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
1594	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	1607	<i>Coriolanus</i> <i>Timon of Athens</i>
1595	<i>Richard II</i> <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	1608	<i>Pericles</i>
1596	<i>King John</i> <i>Merchant of Venice</i>	1609	<i>Cymbeline</i>
1597	<i>Henry IV, Part I</i> <i>Henry IV, Part II</i>	1610	<i>Winter's Tale</i>
1598	<i>Henry V</i> <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>	1611	<i>Tempest</i>
1599	<i>Twelfth Night</i> <i>As You Like It</i> <i>Julius Caesar</i>	1612	<i>Henry VIII</i>
1600	<i>Hamlet</i> <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>		



# *Macbeth*

## *Historical Context*

### **Elizabethan Theater**

Statistics from the late 16th century suggest that more than 10% of the population regularly attended plays. The first regular London playhouse, The Theatre, had been built by the actor and carpenter, J. Burbage, in 1576. Actually, it was built just outside the city of London in order to escape the Puritan civic authorities. Up to this time players had been forced to perform mostly in inn yards. In the typical Elizabethan playhouse:

- The overall shape was roughly round or octagonal shaped with an open space in the middle, or an unroofed yard surrounded by one or two galleries.
- The stage was an open platform, jutting out into the center of the yard.
- Under the stage, hidden by drapery, was a cellar with machinery for projecting ghosts and devils through trapdoors.
- Above the stage the first gallery provided an open balcony which could be used for appearances of actors.
- Above the balcony was a hut to house machinery to raise or lower actors or property onto the stage.

The audience could stand around the stage, on three sides, for the payment of a penny. In the galleries, the best places cost as much as sixpence. Depending on the theatre, there were as many as 2,000 to 3,000 places for spectators.

Shakespeare's company, the King's Men, owned and produced their plays in the Globe Theatre, which they opened in 1589. Like many others of its time, it was an open-roofed structure with a jutting stage, surrounded by curving balcony of seats. The stage itself was roofed and had many levels, so that almost any kind of scene could be represented.

There was little in the way of props and scenery. Shakespeare's play often contain prologues apologizing for the poverty of the set and inviting the viewers to use their imaginations. The plays are full of vivid speeches that use words to create the scene for the audience.

In an open theatre, plays were performed during the day with no lighting available beyond natural daylight. In an enclosed theatre, such as the Blackfriars which the King's Men purchased in 1609, evening performances could be given by torch and candlelight. This type of performance was more expensive and attracted a higher class audience.

Theatre companies during Shakespeare's time consisted of male actors only; no women appeared on the stage. Young men dressed in women's clothing played these parts. The theatre was considered too vulgar an environment for women and a temptation to public "immorality." Needless to say, the men were presented with the same temptations, but it was considered more socially acceptable for them. Although an actor could make a good living, the profession was not considered respectable and the association between acting and a "loose" lifestyle is one that lives on today.

# Macbeth

## Lesson Plan: Page to Stage

In this lesson, students will read an excerpt from Act I, Scene 3 of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Students will also participate in a Socratic Seminar covering topics such as Shakespeare's use of imagery, comparison/contrast, verbal wordplay and disguise. Students will complete a handout where they will analyze how Shakespeare creates comedy/dramatic tension through the use of staging, timing, physicality and vocal delivery. Students will also compare/contrast reading and watching a scene from the play. For the summative assessment, students will write an essay comparing and contrasting reading an excerpt from *Macbeth* to watching it live on stage, making a claim as to which medium was more impactful. All student handouts are included below.

### MACBETH

Speak, if you can: what are you?

### First Witch

All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

### Second Witch

All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

### Third Witch

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

### BANQUO

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? 'I' the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show?

### First Witch

Hail!

### Second Witch

Hail!

### Third Witch

Hail!

### First Witch

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

### Second Witch

Not so happy, yet much happier.

### Third Witch

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

### Third Witch

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

### First Witch

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

### MACBETH

By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,

### BANQUO

The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,  
And these are of them. Whither are they vanish'd?

### MACBETH

Into the air; and what seem'd corporal melted  
As breath into the wind. Would they had stay'd!

### BANQUO

Were such things here as we do speak about?  
Or have we eaten on the insane root  
That takes the reason prisoner?

### MACBETH

Your children shall be kings.

### BANQUO

You shall be king.

# **Macbeth**

## *Lesson Plan: Page to Stage*

Prior to the watching the performance, respond in writing to the following **socratic seminar questions**. All responses should be supported using detailed textual evidence from the scene. You should have a solid, well-supported paragraph for each question.

1. Identify at least two examples of imagery that Shakespeare uses in the scene. What metaphors or similes does Shakespeare employ?
2. How does Shakespeare use comparison and contrast to advance the story? How does he use it to add to the comedy/dramatic tension of the scene?
3. How is humor/dramatic tension set-up in the scene?

**How do the actors and director create comedy/drama in Macbeth, Act I, Scene 5?**

**Staging?**

**Timing?**

**Physicality?**

**Vocal Delivery?**

# *Macbeth*

## *Lesson Plan: Page to Stage*

Comparing reading a scene from *Macbeth* to watching a scene from *Macbeth*.

**Similarities**

**Differences**

**Impact on the audience due to the difference between reading and watching:**

# *Macbeth*

## *Activities: Shakespeare Taboo*

From “assassination” to “zany,” Shakespeare has given us words that we encounter every day. It is almost impossible to discuss such diverse subjects as advertising, business, law, medicine, or even dinner engagements and romance without using a word first penned by the Bard.

In this activity, students will be introduced to some of these terms and gain a new appreciation for Shakespeare. Each card contains a word first penned by Shakespeare, its definition, derivation, and the play(s) in which it first appeared.

### **You will need:**

Shakespeare Taboo cards, a one minute timer

### **Instructions:**

1. Print the next three pages of this Study Guide and cut them into cards, each with one word that Shakespeare coined.
2. Divide class into two teams, sitting on opposite sides of the room.
3. Decide which team will go first. Each team has one minute.
4. One person from that team is the "giver," who takes the top card and attempts to prompt his or her teammates to guess the word at the top.
5. While the giver is prompting the teammates they may make as many guesses as they want with no penalties for wrong guesses.
6. Once the team correctly guesses the word exactly as written on the card, the giver sits down and the next person from his/her team moves on to the next word on the next card, trying to get as many words as possible in the allotted time.
7. A player may choose to “pass,” and give the next player from their team their card. When time runs out, play passes to the other team.
8. The playing team receives one point for correct guesses.
9. When you’ve gone through all of the cards, the team with the best score wins.

### **Rules:**

Unlike traditional Taboo, the "giver" may use any information on the card as well as break the word down into syllables or get his teammates to say words that rhyme with the word or a syllable in the word. For instance, if the word is “dwindle”, the student may say, “This word means to decrease or shrink. It has two syllables. The first syllable rhymes with thin. The second syllable sounds like a word for not sharp (dull).” The giver may only use speech to prompt his or her teammates; gestures, sounds (e.g. barking), or drawings are not allowed.



# Macbeth

## Activities: Shakespeare Taboo

### AROUSE (v)

#### To stir or waken; to excite

Shakespeare added the prefix *a-*. *arouse* is formed from the verb *rouse* which in Middle English had as its original sense “to shake the feathers” describing the behavior of hawks trained for hunting.

*2 Henry VI, The Two Noble Kinsmen*

### SWAGGER (v)

#### To bluster or walk arrogantly; to act superior; to bully

Perhaps from the Norwegian word *svagga* (“to sway in walking”)

*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Troilus and Cressida, 2 Henry IV*

### CRITIC (n)

#### One who passes judgement or expresses a reasoned opinion; reviewer

From the Greek verb *krinein*, “to judge or decide.”

*Love's Labors Lost*

### ASSASSINATION (n)

#### Murder of a prominent person

The noun *assassin* appeared in English in the 13<sup>th</sup> c deriving from an Arabic word denoting a sectarian group whose members took hashish or marijuana before killing a king or public figure. From the Arabic root of *assassin*, meaning “eater of hashish.”

*Macbeth*

### MOONBEAM (n)

#### Ray of reflected light from the moon

Shakespeare was the first to coin the compound word

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### EMPLOYER (n)

#### One who makes use of or hires.

Shakespeare added the suffix *er-* From the Latin *implicare* (“to enfold or involve”). In some Shakespeare texts, the noun is spelled *imploier*.

*Much Ado About Nothing*

### PUKE (v)

#### To vomit

Possibly from the Old English *spiwan* (“to spew or spit”) and the modern German verb with the same meaning, *spucken*.

*As You Like It*

### BUMP (n)

#### Swelling or raised spot on a surface

Both noun and verb are probably onomatopoeic, reflecting the sound of a blow. Shakespeare's *bump* is a swelling that might be caused by a blow.

*Romeo and Juliet*

### FARMHOUSE (n)

#### Farmer's home; rural dwelling

*Farm* is from the fourteenth century from the Old French term meaning “lease,” based on the Latin verb *firmare*, “to make firm.” Shakespeare coined the compound word, hyphenating it as *farm-house*.

*The Merry Wives of Windsor*

### BEDROOM (n)

#### Space for sleeping; area in or for a bed

Shakespeare uses *bed-room* to mean “room or space within a bed,” not the modern “room with a bed.”

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### CIRCUMSTANTIAL (adj)

#### Indirect; dependent upon circumstances or situation

Shakespeare added the suffix *ial-* to the noun *circumstance*, which refers to the incidental or “surrounding” details (such as time, place, manner or occasion) or an action

*As You Like It*

### FLAWED (adj)

#### Imperfect; showing a weakness or imperfection

Shakespeare coined the adjective, based on the Middle English *flaw*, meaning “flake or chip.”

*King Lear, Henry VIII*



# Macbeth

## Activities: Shakespeare Taboo

### FORTUNE-TELLER (n)

**Seer or prophet; one who professes to see the future**

Shakespeare was the first to coin the compound word.

*The Comedy of Errors, The Merry Wives of Windsor*

### MIMIC (n)

**Performer skilled at imitating or aping**

From the Greek mimos for “mime or actor.”

*A Midsummer Night's Dream of Errors, The Merry Wives of Windsor*

### DWINDLE (v)

**To decrease or shrink; to become less**

Probably based on Middle English *dwine*, meaning “to waste away”.

*1 Henry IV, Macbeth*

### FRUGAL (adj)

**Sparing; thrifty or economical**

Based on the Latin *frugalis*, derived from *frux* for “fruit” or “value.”

*The Merry Wives of Windsor, Much Ado About Nothing*

### ADDICTION (n)

**Leaning or inclination; devotion to a habit**

From the Latin *addicere*, meaning “to favor.”

*Henry V, Othello*

### MANAGER (n)

**One who controls or directs; person in charge**

From the Latin *manus*, “hand.”

*Love's Labor's Lost, A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### GENEROUS (adj)

**Of noble birth; kind; freely giving or liberal**

From the Latin *genus* (“birth” or “decent”).

*Love's Labors Lost*

### LUGGAGE (n)

**Something lugged; baggage belonging to a traveler**

From the verb *lug*, from Middle English *luggen*, “to pull or drag by the hair or ear.”

*1 Henry IV, The Tempest*

### PREMEDITATED (adj)

**Contemplated or thought about beforehand; planned**

From the Latin prefix *prae-*, “before,” and the verb *meditari*

*1 Henry VI, A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### LONELY (adj)

**Having no companionship; feeling cut off or desolate**

Coined from *alone*, from the Old English combination of *al* (“all”) and *an* (“one”).

*Coriolanus, The Winter's Tale*

### EYEBALL (n)

**Rounded capsule that forms the eye; organ for vision**

*Eye* may be traced back to Old English and Germanic roots. Shakespeare was the first to use the compound word.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest*

### UNAWARE (adv)

**Unknowingly; suddenly; without warning**

From the Old English *waer*, “careful or wary.”

*Venus and Adonis, 3 Henry VI*

# Macbeth

## Activities: Shakespeare Taboo

### GLOOMY (adj)

**Dark and dismal; depressing**

Shakespeare coined the adjective from the earlier verb *gloom*, meaning “to look, feel or act sullen or despondent.”

*1 Henry V*

### WORTHLESS (adj)

**Having no value or merit; contemptible**

Shakespeare added the suffix to the Old English root *weorth* (“worthy”)

*3 Henry VI, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Titus Andronicus, 1 Henry VI, 2 Henry VI*

### SHOOTING-STAR (n)

**Meteor appearing like a streak of light**

Shakespeare coined this compound word

*Richard II*

### HURRY (v)

**To rush or move quickly**

Of unknown origin.

*The Comedy of Errors, Venus and Adonis*

### SKIM-MILK (n)

**Milk with its cream removed**

Shakespeare coined this compound word

*1 Henry IV, A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### VULNERABLE (adj)

**Immune to harm or injury, having no weakness**

From the Latin, *vulnerare*, “to wound or injure.”

Invulnerable: *King John, Hamlet, The Tempest*  
Vulnerable: *Macbeth*

# Macbeth

## Activities: Paraphrasing

**Paraphrasing** is Orlando Shakes' primary tool for unlocking Shakespeare's text, both in the classroom and for our professional company. What is the definition of paraphrasing?

**Paraphrase:** n. a rewording of the meaning of something spoken or written

**Example:**

Shakespeare's Lines	Paraphrase
To be thus is nothing; But to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares; And, to that dauntless temper of his mind, He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour To act in safety.	No point in being King if I'm not safe. I'm afraid of Banquo. There's something noble about him that scares me. He takes risks, and his mind never stops working. He's so smart that his actions are so carefully bold.

**Exercise:**

In Act 5, Scene 5, Macbeth has a soliloquy saying...

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!

Write your own paraphrasing of Macbeth's words in modern day speech...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# *Macbeth*

## *Activities: Write a Review*

Explain to students that the director's job is to take the words on the script from the printed page to the stage and bring them to life. Explain that theater critics review shows and publish their opinions. For [AmericanTheatreCritics.org](http://AmericanTheatreCritics.org), critic Sherry Eaker wrote, "My point of view was that it wasn't the theatre critic's place to tell the playwright what he or she should be doing; instead, the critic should focus on what is already there and explain either why it works or why it doesn't work."

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production of *Shakespeare in Love*. The review should include one paragraph each for:

Introduction – What did you watch, where and when, and maybe, why?

The script – Did you like the writing, the story, the characters? Why or why not?

The score - Did you like the music? Why or why not?

The acting – Did you believe and care about the characters as portrayed? Why or why not?

The design – Did you like the set, costume and light designs? Why or why not?

The staging – How did the director stage the violence? Was it effective?

The audience – What ways did the audience respond to particular moments?

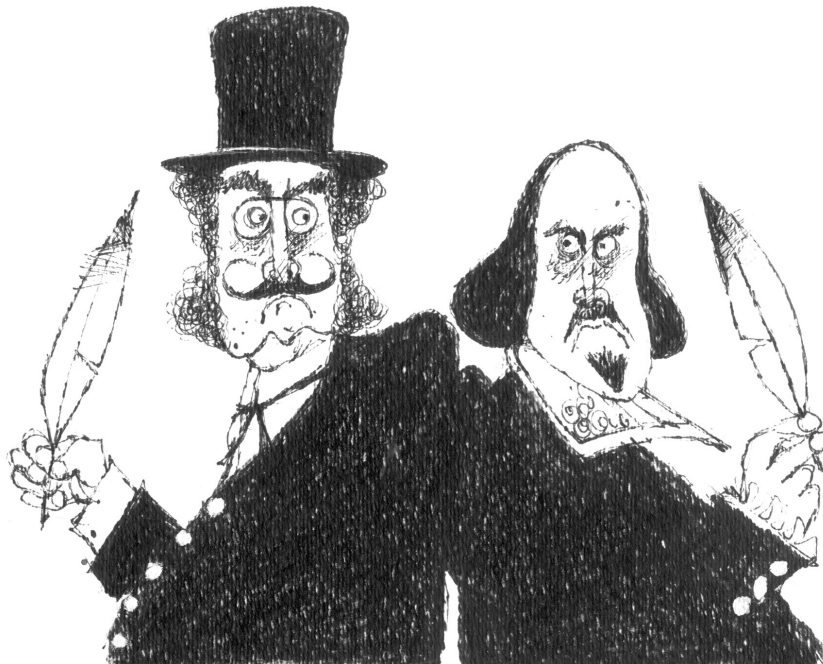
Conclusion – What will you remember about this performance?

If you wish, send your reviews to us at: [anneh@orlandoshakes.org](mailto:anneh@orlandoshakes.org)

We'd love to hear your opinions of our show!

Read more: How to Become a Theater Critic

[ehow.com/how\\_2079002\\_become-theater-critic.html#ixzz1v9tEyMnc](http://ehow.com/how_2079002_become-theater-critic.html#ixzz1v9tEyMnc)



# Macbeth

## Discussion & Themes

1. One of the themes of Macbeth is that our actions have certain consequences, and that some of these consequences can be terrible and unexpected. Discuss this statement with reference to both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. to avenge his father? Is his indecisiveness justifiable or is he too hesitant to take action?
2. Discuss how two of the following influenced Macbeth's actions in the play Macbeth: the witches, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's own ambitions.
3. To what extent is Lady Macbeth responsible for Macbeth becoming king of Scotland? Use specific evidence from the play to support your answer.
4. Macbeth has not been a scoundrel all of his life. Instead he is a good man who has gone wrong. This is a real tragedy. Discuss this statement by focusing on Macbeth's good qualities some of which are used for the wrong purposes.

### Dangers Of Ambition

The Raven Himself Is Hoarse  
That Croaks The Fatal Entrance Of Duncan  
Under My Battlements. 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.

*Lady Macbeth (Act 1, Scene 5)*

### The Pain Of Loss

Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow  
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.  
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.

*Macbeth (Act 1, Scene 1)*

### The Supernatural

Double, Double Toil And Trouble;  
Fire Burn, And Caldron Bubble.

*The Witches (Act 4, Scene 1)*

Information courtesy of [folger.edu](http://folger.edu), [www.william-shakespeare.info](http://www.william-shakespeare.info), [online-literature.com](http://online-literature.com), [playshakespeare.com](http://playshakespeare.com), [bard.org](http://bard.org), [enotes.com](http://enotes.com), [famousshakespearequotes.net](http://famousshakespearequotes.net), [osfashland.org](http://osfashland.org), [shmoop.com](http://shmoop.com), Coined by Shakespeare by Stanley Malles, Jeffrey McQuain, R. O. Blechman