MACBETH OVERVIEW: MOTIFS – BLOOD / DEAD CHILDREN / HANDS / NATURE GONE WRONG / DARKNESS / DISEASE & SICKNESS / HEAVEN & HELL / DAGGER

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| THE WITCHES  CHAOS    TRICKERY  “There to meet with Macbeth”  “Fair is foul and foul is fair”  “All hail Macbeth that shalt be King hereafter”  “Something wicked this way comes”  “Beware Macduff”  “None of woman born shall harm Macbeth” | MACBETH  TRAGIC HERO    AMBITIOUS  “So foul & fair a day I have not seen”  “Stars hide your fires; let not light see my black and deep desires”  “If Chance will have me King…”  “Is this a dagger I see before me?”  “Macbeth does murder sleep!”  “Of full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife”/ “blood will have blood”  “tomorrow & tomorrow & tomorrow”  “I will not yield…Lay on Macduff” | BANQUO  LOYAL    MORAL  “to win us to our harm/ the instruments of darkness tell us truths”  “Can the devil speak true?”  “A heavy summons lies like lead upon me”  “I feel thou playd’st most foully for’t!”  “O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance…Thou mayst revenge”  FOIL CHARACTER to Macbeth | LADY MACBETH  CONTROLLING    MANIPULATIVE  TROUBLED  “too full of the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way”  “Come you spirits unsex me here”  “Look like th’ innocent flower but be the serpent under’t”  “But screw your courage to the sticking place”  “Infirm of purpose!”  “Out damned spot! Out I say!”  “She should have died hereafter” | MACDUFF  HONOURABLE    IDEAL MASCULINITY  CATALYST  “O horror! Horror! Horror!”  “black Macbeth”  “All my pretty ones?”  “I must feel it like a man!”  “Turn, hell-hound, turn!”  “Macduff was from his mother’s womb/ Untimely ripp’d” REVENGE / HONOUR |
| **WITCHES/ GREAT CHAIN**  \*appeals to King James  \*adds drama, fear, mystery  \*dark side of humanity/ hell  \*act as the villains | **HONOUR / TREASON / MASCULINITY** Shakespeare creates a main character who audiences can relate to on different levels. In some ways, version of ‘modern man’ -thoughtful, sensitive but also traditional hero – war-like, brave, warrior. Is he fully responsible for his actions? Tragic hero formula but with a twist – more mental turmoil | Image result for holinshed's chroniclesBASED on **REAL HISTORY** –  Holinshed’s History of Scotland. Shakespeare made King Duncan more virtuous and mild. Banquo turned into  Loyal supporter of  King Duncan. History  Reinvented to add  Drama / contrast. | **The GUNPOWDER PLOT**: Catholic Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Protestant King James & was brutally executed. **Idea of treason**  **GENDER ROLES**: Lady Macbeth is ‘unnatural’/ reverses gender roles so Shakespeare must show her as ‘punished’. | **DIVINE RIGHT of KINGS /KING JAMES 1** - Macbeth performed to King. The play shows model of perfect King loved by his subjects.  End: CATHARSIS. Rightful King. |
| **ACT 1 EXPOSITION**  Witches plotting.  Images of ‘brave Macbeth’ in battle Norway/Scotland.  CONTRAST & ENIGMAS.  FATE: Macbeth made Thane of Cawdor – ‘horrid image’.  Duncan makes Malcolm Prince of Cumberland: ‘black & deep desires’  Lady Macbeth casts spell, plots the killing & persuades Macbeth (Macbeth unsure)  Ends with dagger leading to King Duncan’s bedchamber. | **ACT 2 TURNING POINT**  Begins with Lady Macbeth waiting to see if Macbeth has killed Duncan. Macbeth is changed man “I have done the deed” - Lady Macbeth dominant.  Lady M takes daggers back & smears guards’ faces as sign of their guilt. BLOOD MOTIF & HANGMAN IMAGE.  NATURE DISTURBED – image of whole ocean turned red with blood.  Macduff arrives & discovers dead Duncan. Macbeth overacts & claims he killed guards in anger. Malcolm & Donalbain flee to England & Ireland: “there’s daggers in men’s smiles” | **ACT3 BUILD-UP of EVIL**  Begins with Banquo distrustful. Macbeth persuades murderers to kill Banquo to save ‘fruitless crown’/ ’barren sceptre’.  Lady M is loving & gentle in private: ‘what’s done is done”.  But Macbeth is hiding things from her & casts a spell to night & evil to make him emotionless. Banquo killed/ Fleance escapes. Banquet: Banquo’s ghost appears but only to Macbeth. Macbeth REVENGE worry. EVIL **‘We are but young in deed’** | **ACT 4 RISING PATTERN of EVENTS**  Begins with witches casting a spell with body parts & a dead baby: “Double, double, toil and trouble/ Fire burn & cauldron bubble”  Macbeth commands them to tell the future. They warn him to ‘Beware Macduff!’ but re-assure him ‘none of woman born’ shall harm him. He won’t be beaten til Birnam Wood comes to ‘High Dunsinane Hill’. They show him Banquo’s children stretching out as a line of Kings. Macduff has fled to England so Macbeth has all his family slaughtered. Malcolm ‘tricks’ Macduff to test his loyalty. Ross tells Macduff of family’s murders. Repetition of **‘tyrant’** to describe Macbeth. | **ACT 5 Macbeth’s EPIPHANY**  Lady Macbeth’s bedchamber. Sleepwalking, rubbing hands, talks of blood. Macbeth now cruel -taunts boy who brings reports. Privately, M. admits he has lost good things in life: **‘honour, love, obedience’**. Birnam wood moves. Strange cry: Lady M dies off-stage. ‘Tomorrow’ speech. Refuses to fight Macduff then EPIPHANY- witches’ trickery. Dies. **‘This butcher & his fiend-like queen’.** |