

Ambition

Macbeth's ambition is driven by two main factors: The Witches and Lady Macbeth.

Act 1, scene 3 – Macbeth begins to consider killing King Duncan once the Witches' predictions start coming true. The idea makes 'my seated heart knock at my ribs' = showing he is scared of what he's thinking

Act 1, scene 4 – Macbeth isn't happy when he learns that Malcolm will be the next King of Scotland 'Prince of Cumberland. That is a step On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,' This leads him to thinking about killing King Duncan, and he begs the stars to 'hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires.' = dark, evil thoughts

Act 1, scene 5 – Lady Macbeth wants her husband to be King but worries he is 'too full o' th' milk of human kindness' = he is too kind to kill. She calls on evil spirits to 'unsex me here' = give her the power of a man & 'fill me from the crown to the toe, top-full Of direst cruelty' = make her evil.

When Macbeth isn't happy about the plan, she tells him to 'look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under't' = don't look guilty before you've even done anything.

Act 1, scene 7 – Lady Macbeth challenges Macbeth's masculinity in order to make him kill King Duncan 'when you durst do it, then you were a man.' Macbeth is really struggling with the idea as he has the 'vaulting ambition' = desire to be higher in the Divine Right of Kings, but knows that the 'bloody instructions... return to plague the inventor' = if he does this deed, it will come back to haunt him.

Act 2, scene 4 – Ross says ‘**Thriftless ambition, that will ravin up
Thine own lives' means!**’ = he blames Duncan’s sons for his murder as he thinks they were power greedy.

Act 3, scene 1 – Macbeth plotting to kill Banquo ‘**you must kill both Banquo
and his son, Fleance**’ = to keep himself safe as King. Macbeth does this by challenging the murderers’ masculinity ‘**Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men,**’ = this is just like Lady Macbeth did to him.

Act 4, scene 1 – Macbeth goes back to the Witches to find out how to protect his position ‘**I conjure you by that which you profess**’ & ‘**Tell me**’

Act 4, scene 1 – Macbeth decides to kill Macduff’s family in order to protect himself as King because the Witches warned Macbeth to be aware of him, ‘**The castle of Macduff I will surprise**’

Act 4, scene 3 - Macduff going to England in order to protect Scotland
‘**MACDUFF: I am not treacherous. MALCOLM: But Macbeth is.**’

Act 4, scene 3 - Macduff wants to kill Macbeth himself after he learns his family has been killed. ‘**Bring thou this fiend of Scotland and myself. Within my sword’s length set him**’

Act 5, scene 7 - Macduff wants to kill Macbeth himself to get revenge for his family being killed. ‘**If thou beest slain, and with no stroke of mine, My wife and children’s ghosts will haunt me still.**’

Fate or freewill (outside influence or personal choice)

Act 1, scene 1 - The Witches agree to meet Macbeth 'There to meet with Macbeth' = Fate

Act 1, scene 2, The battle – Macbeth was stronger than the enemy 'brandished steel' and 'smoked with bloody execution' & 'unseamed him from the nave to the chaps' = Freewill

Act 1, scene 3, The Witches call Macbeth 3 things 'thane of Glamis,' 'thane of Cawdor' and 'King Hereafter' = Both

- does it influence what he does or was it always going to happen?

Act 1, scene 3 - Macbeth demands the Witches speak to him. 'Speak if you can!' = Both

Act 1, scene 3 - Banquo says 'Look, how our partner's rapt.' – rapt means seized, seized means taken = fate as he is being controlled. = Fate

Act 1, scene 3 – Macbeth talks about 'chance' making him King = Both

Act 1, scene 4 – Macbeth doesn't like it when Malcolm is named as the next King and talks of him being 'a step he must fall down' and having 'black and deep desires' = Both but mainly freewill

Act 1, scene 7 – Macbeth talks about 'dare do all that may become a man' = he's made up his mind to kill King Duncan = Both but mainly fate

Act 2, scene 1 – the dagger scene, Macbeth says 'is this...' = confused & 'let me clutch thee' = wanting to hold it. = Both

Act 3, scene 1 – Macbeth talks of 'fate' and then 'champion' when worried that Banquo's son will become King = this leads to their attack = freewill

Act 4, scene 1 – Macbeth goes back to the Witches for assurance. He says 'that will never be' to their predictions. = freewill

Act 4, scene 2 – Macduff's family are killed 'wren' and 'egg' = freewill

In the first 2 Acts, It is fate that plants the seed to drive Macbeth's freewill.

From Act 3, it is freewill only.

Kingship

Act 1, scene 2 - Duncan performs 2 duties instantly – punishes the traitor and reward Macbeth **'with his former title greet Macbeth.'**

Act 1, scene 4 - Macbeth is respected at the start **'worthiest cousin'**

Act 1, scene 5 - When Lady Macbeth reads the letter, she says Macbeth is **'too full o' the milk of human kindness.'** To help him become King

Act 1, scene 7 - Duncan is compared to a heavenly status:

Macbeth says to himself that the king **'Hath borne his faculties so meek'** (makes him sound like Baby Jesus),

'in his great office,'

'plead like angels & trumpet-tongued'

Act 2, scene 4 - Ross and an Old Man talk the morning after Duncan's death **'the heavens, as troubled with man's act' AND 'A falcon, towering in her pride of place, was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd'**

Act 3, scene 4 - When Macbeth is King he pretends to be good: **'You know your own degrees; sit down.'** He will **'play the humble host'**

Act 4, scene 3 - When Macduff has found Malcolm, Malcolm asks if Macbeth is **'fit to govern'** = doubting him as King.

Act 4, scene 3 - Malcolm talks about the King of England and how he **'himself knows best.'**

Act 5, scene 3 - Macbeth has given up at the end; something Duncan would never have done. He says **'I have lived long enough.'** (Act 5, scene 3)

Act 5, scene 8 - Malcolm is a good King as he promotes or Thanes to Earls **'My thanes and kinsmen, Henceforth be earls'**

Good vs Evil / Loyalty vs Betrayal

Act 1, scene 1 – The Witches already seal Macbeth's fate by arranging to meet him 'There to meet with Macbeth'

Act 1, scene 2 – Macbeth does well in the battle between Scotland and Norway 'brandished steel' and 'smoked with bloody execution' & 'unseamed him from the nave to the chaps' and as a reward, Duncan makes Macbeth the new Thane of Cawdor 'with his former title greet Macbeth'

Act 1, scene 4 – The old Thane of Cawdor is killed for being a traitor. Duncan says, 'Is execution done on Cawdor?' = betrayal is punished

Act 1, scene 3 – Macbeth begins to consider killing King Duncan once the Witches' predictions start coming true. The idea makes 'my seated heart knock at my ribs' = showing he is scared of what he's thinking

Act 1, scene 4 – Macbeth isn't happy when he learns that Malcolm will be the next King of Scotland 'Prince of Cumberland. That is a step On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,' This leads him to thinking about killing King Duncan, and he begs the stars to 'hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires.' = dark, evil thoughts

Act 1, scene 5 – Lady Macbeth wants her husband to be King but worries he is 'too full o' th' milk of human kindness' = he is too kind to kill. She calls on evil spirits to 'unsex me here' = give her the power of a man & 'fill me from the crown to the toe, top-full Of direst cruelty' = make her evil.

When Macbeth isn't happy about the plan, she tells him to 'look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under't' = don't look guilty before you've even done anything.

Act 1, scene 7 – Lady Macbeth challenges Macbeth’s masculinity in order to make him kill King Duncan ‘when you durst do it, then you were a man.’ Macbeth is really struggling with the idea as he has the ‘vaulting ambition’ = desire to be higher in the Divine Right of Kings, but knows that the ‘bloody instructions... return to plague the inventor’ = if he does this deed, it will come back to haunt him.

Act 2, scene 1 – Macbeth kills King Duncan ‘is this a dagger which I see before me?’

Act 2, scene 2 – Lady Macbeth is loyal to her husband and takes charge when Macbeth has killed King Duncan ‘give me the daggers!’ & ‘a little water clears us of this deed’

Act 3, scene 1 – Banquo is starting to doubt Macbeth, ‘I fear Thou play’st most foully for ‘t’ = breakdown of Macbeth and Banquo’s friendship

Act 3, scene 1 – Macbeth plotting to kill Banquo ‘you must kill both Banquo and his son, Fleance’ = to keep himself safe as King.

Act 3, scene 2 – Macbeth is keeping secrets from his wife, ‘be innocent of the knowledge dearest chuck’ = Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s relationship is starting to break down.

Act 3, scene 3 – Banquo is killed by the murderers ‘twenty trenched gashes’ & ‘his throat is cut’ = Macbeth has organised this murder which shows the breakdown of their friendship

Act 3, scene 4 – Lady Macbeth is a loyal wife and covers for Macbeth’s outburst when he sees Banquo’s Ghost at the feast ‘My Lord is often thus’ = saying he is ill and usually sees images

Act 4, scene 1 – Macbeth decides to kill Macduff's family in order to protect himself as King because the Witches warned Macbeth to be aware of him, 'The castle of Macduff I will surprise'

Act 4, scene 3 - Macduff going to England in order to protect Scotland shows loyalty 'MACDUFF: I am not treacherous. MALCOLM: But Macbeth is.' And protecting the country 'Bleed, bleed poor country!'

Act 5, scene 5 – Macbeth doesn't have time to care that Lady Macbeth has died 'she should have died hereafter, there would have been a time for such a word' = shows the breakdown of their loving relationship.

Act 5, scene 8 - Malcolm is a good King as he promotes or Thaness to Earls 'My thanes and kinsmen, Henceforth be earls' = loyalty is rewarded

Relationships

Act 1, scene 2 – Macbeth is praised for how well he did in battle. ‘Valiant soldier’ & ‘noble Macbeth’ & ‘worthy cousin’ (in Act 1, scene 4) = he is highly thought of.

Act 1, scene 3 – Macbeth and Banquo are best friends, ‘Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear Things that do sound so fair?’ = Banquo is supporting Macbeth

Act 1, scene 4 – Duncan is speaking to Malcolm after he is shocked he has been betrayed, ‘There’s no art’ = it’s hard to tell who isn’t being truthful

Act 1, scene 4 – Duncan names his oldest son (Malcolm) as the next King of Scotland, ‘Prince of Cumberland’ = he is considered highly enough to run Scotland.

Act 1, scene 5 – Lady Macbeth loves Macbeth ‘my dearest partner of greatness’ = the adjectives show their relationship is strong

Act 1, scene 5 – Lady Macbeth takes charge in the relationship, ‘unsex me here’ & ‘look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under’t.’

Act 1, scene 6 – Duncan thinks highly of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ‘This castle hath a pleasant seat’ & ‘see our honoured hostess!’ & ‘Conduct me to mine host: we love him highly’

Act 1, scene 7 – King Duncan is respected ‘in his great office, pleaded like angels...’ = seen like a god.

Act 2, scene 1 – Banquo is with his son, Fleance ‘How goes the night boy?’ = caring for his child.

Act 2, scene 1 - Macbeth kills King Duncan ‘Macbeth has murdered sleep’ = Macbeth has betrayed the King

Act 2, scene 2 – Lady Macbeth has to take charge when Macbeth has killed King Duncan ‘give me the daggers!’ & ‘a little water clears us of this deed’

Act 3, scene 1 – Banquo is starting to doubt Macbeth, ‘I fear Thou play’st most foully for ‘t’ = breakdown of Macbeth and Banquo’s friendship

Act 3, scene 2 – Macbeth is keeping secrets from his wife, ‘be innocent of the knowledge dearest chuck’ = Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s relationship is starting to break down.

Act 3, scene 3 – Banquo is killed by the murderers ‘twenty trenched gashes’ & ‘his throat is cut’ = Macbeth has organised this murder which shows the breakdown of their friendship

Act 3, scene 3 – Banquo cares for / protects his son, Fleance ‘Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, Fly!’ = Banquo is bothered about his son’s safety.

Act 3, scene 4 – Lady Macbeth covers for Macbeth’s outburst when he sees Banquo’s Ghost at the feast ‘My Lord is often thus’ = saying he is ill and usually sees images

Act 4, scene 2 – Lady Macduff isn’t that happy that Macduff has been a traitor and gone to England to find Malcolm, ‘His flight was madness’ & she tells her son, ‘your father’s dead’

Act 4, scene 3 – Macduff's family are killed as Macduff has been a traitor and gone to England. 'All my pretty ones?' = shows how much Macduff cares for his family. 'O hell-kite!' = shows Macduff's anger towards Macbeth

Act 5, scene 5 – Macbeth doesn't have time to care that Lady Macbeth has died 'she should have died hereafter, there would have been a time for such a word' = shows the breakdown of their loving relationship.

Supernatural & Reality vs Appearance

Act 1, scene 1 – The three Witches are plotting evil stuff. **'There to meet with Macbeth'**

Act 1, scene 3 – Macbeth and Banquo see the three Witches **'Speak, if you can: what are you?'** = showing the **'weird sisters'** are not human.

Act 1, scene 5 – Lady Macbeth starts her evil thoughts **'Come, you spirits'** = she is calling on supernatural to give her the power of a man.

Act 2, scene 1 – Macbeth sees a supernatural dagger **'Is this a dagger which I see before me'** which teaches him how to kill King Duncan

Act 3, scene 2 – Macbeth is full of evil thoughts **'O, full of scorpions is my mind'** = metaphor for the evil and poisonous thoughts

Act 3, scene 4 – Banquo's Ghost appears at Macbeth's banquet/feast, **'The table's full'** & **'Which of you have done this?'** & **'Never shake Thy gory locks at me.'**

Act 4, scene 1 – The Witches show Macbeth supernatural visions as warnings each of the visions **'descends'** implying they come from hell

Act 5, scene 1 – Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking and can't get blood off of her hands **'Out damn spot!'** this is Duncan's blood and she is always washing her hand which is ironic from early when she says **'a little water clears us of this dead.'**