

Themes in Macbeth

Ambition

Act 1 Scene 4: Macbeth- 'Black and deep desires'

Act 1 Scene 5: Lady Macbeth- 'Shalt be what thou art promised'

Act 2 Scene 1: Macbeth- 'Is this a dagger I see before me?'

Act 2 Scene 4: Ross (about Malcolm) - 'Thriftless ambition'

Act 1 Scene 2: Captain- 'All's too weak for brave Macbeth'

Act 3 Scene 2: Macbeth- 'We have scorched the snake, not killed it'

Appearance vs Reality

Act 1 Scene 6: Lady Macbeth- 'Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it'

Act 1 Scene 7: Duncan- 'This castle hath a pleasant seat'

Act 1 Scene 7: Macbeth- 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know'

Act 2 Scene 2: Lady Macbeth- 'A little water clears us of this deed'

Act 1 Scene 3: Witches (about Banquo)- 'Not so happy, yet much happier'

Act 5 Scene 5: Macbeth- 'Out out brief candle'

Fate vs Freewill

Act 1 Scene 3: Macbeth- 'Chance may crown me'

Act 3 Scene 1: Macbeth- 'Barren sceptre in my gripe'

Act 3 Scene 5: Hecate- 'He shall spurn fate'

Act 4 Scene 1: Stage direction- 'A child crowned with a tree'

Act 5 Scene 1: Lady Macbeth- 'Out damned spot'

Natural vs Unnatural

Act 2 Scene 1: Macbeth- 'Is this a dagger I see before me?'