

Macbeth: Unit Introduction and Activities

While some students think Shakespeare's work is outdated and impossible to understand, we read and analyze his plays because the themes he discussed in the 17th century are still disrupting lives in the 21st century. While the setting, technology and language may have changed, people have not. *Macbeth* presents us with the portrait of one man's obsession and the devastating impact that obsession can have. Throughout our reading and discussion of the play, we will be relating Shakespeare's ideas to our lives and times, so be prepared to discuss these connections.

Participation Points

You will earn points through reading parts, paying attention while others are reading, and participating in discussions. Be aware that disrupting the class's reading results in the loss of points.

Reading Journal

Throughout the play, you are expected to maintain a journal. This consists of the following parts; the last one needs to be formatted according to MLA guidelines & submitted to TurnItIn.com as we finish each act:

1. **Structure of *Macbeth* Handout** (summary of the play) due _____
2. **The Characters of *Macbeth* Handout** due _____
3. **Theme Analysis:** Select one of the thematic topics we discussed at the beginning of the unit. Write one paragraph (min. of 7 sentences) explaining what specifically happened with that topic in that act, and what Shakespeare might be telling us about that issue as it relates to human nature. [MLA Format & TurnItIn.com]

Motif Exploration, due _____

A motif is a symbolic image or idea that appears frequently in a text, and can be images, symbols, sounds, actions, ideas, or words that strengthen a story's theme. *Macbeth* includes several motifs, one of which you will be assigned to track throughout the play. Find at least two quotes from each act that show Shakespeare's use of that motif and/or one that is closely related. After finding all of your quotations, consider why Shakespeare employed that motif, and what is he suggesting to the audience through it. Then, create an artistic expression of the motif and Shakespeare's "message". This expression could be a poster, sculpture, collage or computer-assisted creation; it cannot be a picture that you take off the Internet. Along with your **artistic product**, turn in your **quotes** and a **paragraph** explaining how your artistic expression reveals the importance of Shakespeare's use of that motif. FYI: The quality of work shown in your expression and evidence of effort will impact your grade on this assignment.

Response Activities and Reading Quizzes

During the reading and after each act, you will complete various activities designed to stimulate critical thinking about the play. The activities will be both individual and cooperative.

Analysis Essay

More information will be provided.

Final Exam on _____

You will be taking an objective test on the play, so completing the assigned unit tasks will help you do well on the test.