Model Theme Analysis for Macbeth: Betrayal

The Theme Analysis component of the Reading Journal will be completed independently outside of class. In the Analysis, you need to first thoroughly explain what happens in that act with the thematic topic you selected. Following that explanation, write about what Shakespeare is telling the audience about that thematic topic (your thematic statement), and make a modern connection that explains the relevancy of the theme today.

SUMMARY OF THE THEME IN THE ACT In Act I, Shakespeare introduces the concept of betrayal through secondary characters [those who are not the focus of the play]. The original Thane of Cawdor is executed on Duncan's order, because of his traitorous ways. Because of the Thane's actions, the Norwegian army attacked Scotland, leading to the deaths of many soldiers. After the execution, Duncan says that he was surprised by this betrayal; he did not expect it, since he could not predict it by looking into his face. Later on, Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle and praises its hospitable appearance. He is not aware that at that moment, Macbeth and his wife are plotting the ultimate betrayal: their king's murder. SHAKESPEARE'S MESSAGE Here, Shakespeare makes it clear that one cannot predict betrayal, since it is easy for those who dream of betraying their superiors to hide their true feelings. This tricks the victim into a false sense of security, so he is caught off guard by what happens in the future. MODERN CONNECTION Many Americans felt a similar sense of betrayal on 9/11. Prior to this tragedy, they felt protected from these sinister acts that seemed to take place "elsewhere" in the world. They were caught off guard by this revelation.

To have the most benefit for your essay assignment, you should use the **same** thematic topic for each act. Select from the following list:
    Consequences of Violence
    Corruption of Power
    Blind Ambition
    Importance of Loyalty
    Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair (things are not what they seem)
    Superstition and its Effects on Behavior