

Guinan/Macbeth Daily Writing

INTRODUCTION: The occult. Murder. Assassination. Deceit. Treachery. Decapitation. Buckle up for one of the Bard's darker and more violent stories.

Directions: Read the Play. We shall read/view a great deal in class, and you will read some on your own. 4 hours.

Every few days we will reflect in writing.

- I. **Fate and Free Will: Write an ESP that discusses the theme of fate vs. free will in ACT I. What evidence suggests Macbeth has no choice, that he is fated to kill the king? (15 min)**

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Daily Writing II Read Macbeth's soliloquy in ACT II scene 1.

Find the following literary devices, and transcribe them here. (20 min)

1. a metaphor

*"A Dagger of the Mind" (l. 50)*

6. a simile

2. epithet

*"Thou..firm set earth" (l. 69)*

7. antithesis

3. imagery

8. a heroic couplet

4. personification

9. apostrophe

5. allusion

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III. Research! Find the quote. Then write a brief explanation that includes the ACT and SCENE, Who said it, and what it means in context. You should be able to do explain in 2 sentences.

1. Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious,  
Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man:

**In Act II scene 3, Macbeth explains that he killed Duncan's guards in a rage, for they had killed Duncan. Macbeth is acting distraught and shocked at the death of his king.**

2. the sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood  
That fears a painted devil.
3. Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
4. This avarice  
Sticks deeper, grows with more pernicious root  
Than summer-seeming lust, and it hath been  
The sword of our slain kings:
5. Out, damned spot! out, I say!
6. Despair thy charm;  
And let the angel whom thou still hast served  
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripp'd.
7. I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd.
8. Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until  
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him.
9. O proper stuff!  
This is the very painting of your fear:  
This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,  
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts,  
Impostors to true fear, would well become  
A woman's story at a winter's fire,  
Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!  
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,  
You look but on a stool.

10. My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.

11. I am one, my liege,  
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world  
Have so incensed that I am reckless what  
I do to spite the world.

12. She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

IV. Pick TWO of the following statements and then write a well developed paragraph that defends the thesis. Each paragraph must directly cite the text. See example.

e.g. "The witches are the source of the evil in Macbeth."

Although Macbeth wallows in the dilemma of whether or not to murder Duncan, as well as the crisis of facing the consequences, the primary impetus

for the evil of the play comes from the Weird sisters. In ACT III, Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft chastises the witches for causing the trouble, for "traffic[ing] with Macbeth..." Hecate's anger at their unauthorized behavior suggests the witches extended their influence over matters too far. Furthermore, once they had put Macbeth under their prophetic spells, they couldn't properly conduct their witchcraft--it had gotten out of hand and required the help of Hecate to set a course of action to right the evil of the play. Indeed the witches did more than suggest the actions of the play; they were the outright but invisible cause of them.

1. Macbeth is a coward.
  2. Macbeth has no free will.
  3. Lady Macbeth challenges Macbeth's sense of manhood.
  4. The moral universe of Macbeth is one characterized by the ultimate predominance of justice and fundamental good morals.
  5. Shakespeare's Macbeth is a tragedy.
  6. The supernatural themes of the play are a metaphor for evil inclinations and actions.
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V. Research! Getting into the discussion is an integral part of consuming literature.

1. Go to Academic Search Premier at Infohio/EBSCO HOST
2. Either do a basic search for "Macbeth" then look for "Melancholy, Ecstasy, Phantasma, the Pathologies of Macbeth, by Suparna Roychoudhury" or directly search for that title.
3. Answer the following:
  1. How many pages are in the article?
  2. Which best describes the primary purpose of the first six pages of the article?
    - A. to provide an overview of Macbeth's melancholy
    - B. to evaluate Shakespeare's methods of presenting mental illness
    - C. to compare modern portrayals of mental illness with those of the medieval era.

- D. to provide context for understanding mental illness in literature of the Elizabethan era.
2. What two plays receive “extended treatment” of imagination and melancholy? (p. 211)
3. (P. 217) According to William Hazlett, what is Macbeth “about”?
4. If you were writing a paper about mental illness in literature, and wanted to use Macbeth as a basis for a claim, on which of the following pages would you most likely find appropriate secondary source material?
- A. p. 200  
B. p. 205  
C. p. 213  
D. p. 220
5. (See pp 220-1) In your own words, what is the observation being made that is supported by Ross’s ACT IV scene 3 lines (Perhaps two sentences will answer this question).
6. p. 224, “Why is the image of Lady Macbeth framed...” What claim made by Mr. Guinan does Roychoudhury dismiss, regarding why the doctor is in the Lady Macbeth scene?
7. Continuing that same paragraph, what is Roychoudhury argument about why the doctor is in the scene?
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