

Here are some major theme topics that will come up as we read Macbeth. This exercise really gives you a chance to connect with vocabulary and past knowledge as you explore your own, individual connections between ideas and write about them. None of us thinks exactly alike—so this kind of exercise validates that idea AND prepares us to focus on theme topics we already have ideas about versus how they develop in this particular play.

Copy these terms down in a list:

ARRANGE/LIST THEM FROM MOST IMPORTANT TO
LEAST IMPORTANT

Macbeth Theme Topics:

Mendacity (the quality of being a liar: a habit of lying)

Honor, Fate, Ambition, Avarice (greed), Envy, Guilt, Fear,
Bravery, Loyalty

Arrange and explore these ideas in the following ways:

- 1- Good/Evil T-charts—create a T-chart with good on one side and evil on the other, and sort the above theme topics into those two categories—or put them

on the line between. Explain your answer/reasoning to a partner—be specific. Share out with class.

2- Graphic Organizer (Universe/Spider type) with “Death” in the center. Connect the above theme topics to “death” using arrows that go one way—or possibly both. **Example:** does greed lead to death, or vice versa-- and how so? Can it go both ways? (Use specific examples.) Explain your reasoning to a partner. Share out with class.

3- Choose one of the above theme topics and write a short paragraph that makes a statement about that topic and ties your opinion to a specific event you know of, either personally or through any books/movies/news/stories you recall. The specific event or story you tie it to will be your support/evidence for your idea about this topic, so you should refer to it briefly, but **you must explain the connection you see thoroughly**. Share your writing with a partner, then turn your work for today in to the teacher.