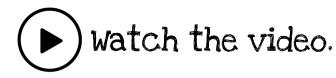
COLE

CONVERSATIONS

WITH STUART PRYKE

Macbeth Analysis: The Witches









Be prepared to answer questions about the witches at the end.

What can you recall from the video about the witches?

Avoid using the video or flash cards until you've completed all the questions using just your brain!



How far are the witches responsible for Macbeth's downfall?

Why was Jacobean society deeply suspicious about witches?

What imagery is created in the line "fog and filthy air"?



Why do the witches speak in trochaic tetrameter?

Why would poor, single or vulnerable women be accused of witchcraft?

How does Banquo's reaction to the witches differ to Macbeth's?



What weather is associated with the witches?

What supernatural abilities do the witches have?

What spirit animals are mentioned in act 1:1?

Complete the line: "Fair is foul and



Contemporary audiences will see the weather as a signifier In medias res of witches and witchcraft. Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches Suggests that audiences are joining the witches at the end of their conversation. First Witch When shall we three meet again In thunder, lightning, or in rain? Confusion/chaos/sounds of the battle **Second Witch** When the hurlyburly's done, Paradoxical statements When the battle's lost and won. **Third Witch** That will be ere the set of sun. Highlights the ability of witches to With literal darkness comes look into the future. metaphorical darkness **First Witch** Where the place? **Second Witch** Upon the heath.— 'Heath' – A shrubland habitat The witches will meet **Third Witch** There to meet with Macbeth. found mainly on infertile, Macbeth beyond acidic soil. civilization. First Witch I come, Graymalkin! Second Witch Paddock calls— Witches were said to be accompanied by familiars. Third Witch Anon. Word class/technique Graymalkin and Paddock is a toad **ALL** Fair is foul, and foul is fair: Denotation (Paddok – a toad or frog) Connotations Hover through the fog and filthy air. Effect (reader/writer's intention) Context @ SPryke2 (2) (a) @educatedmindsuk

Macbeth:

Presentation of the witches

Potentially quite confusing for an audience. They must question what the characters are saying, placing them in a similar situation to Macbeth himself.

Shakespeare lived and wrote in a society what was deeply suspicious and paranoid about witchcraft. King James I himself was preoccupied with the perceived power witchcraft had over his reign.

Shakespeare begins his play by introducing the conflict between appearance and reality. What appears to be the case is not always the truth. Things that seem 'fair' are 'foul', and in some cases, 'foul' things are 'fair'. The allure of kingship may seem 'fair', but for the Macbeths, royalty will turn 'foul'.

James I wrote 'Daemonologie', a philosophical dissertation on contemporary necromancy and the historical relationships between the various methods of divination used from ancient black magic.

Paradoxical Couplets

'Fair is foul and foul is fair, Hover through the fog and filthy

Supernatural abilities!

Truth is obscured.

Disgustingly dirty.

Imagery of infection and pollution. Air is supposed to be life-giving but here it has been tainted by the supernatural. This imagery of infection and pollution runs throughout the rest of the play.

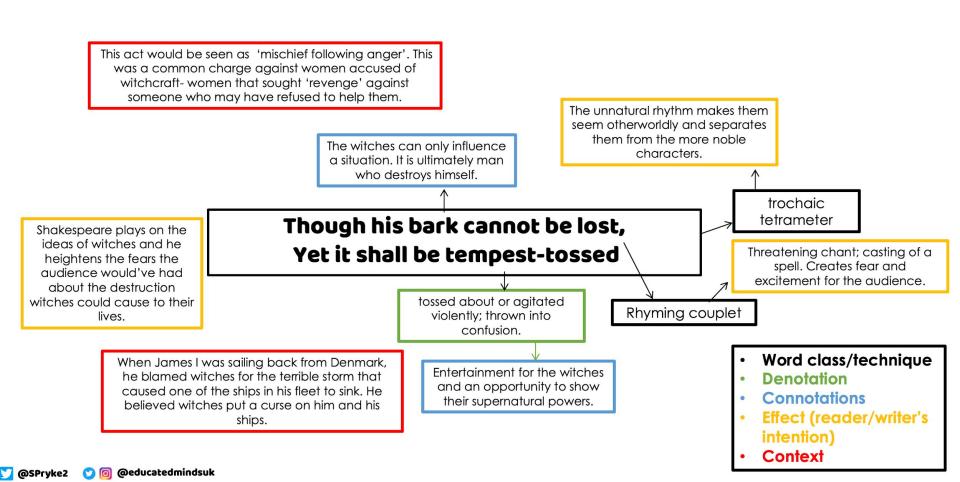
Fricative alliteration – repeated 'f' sounds mirror the harsh nature of this world and the witches themselves.

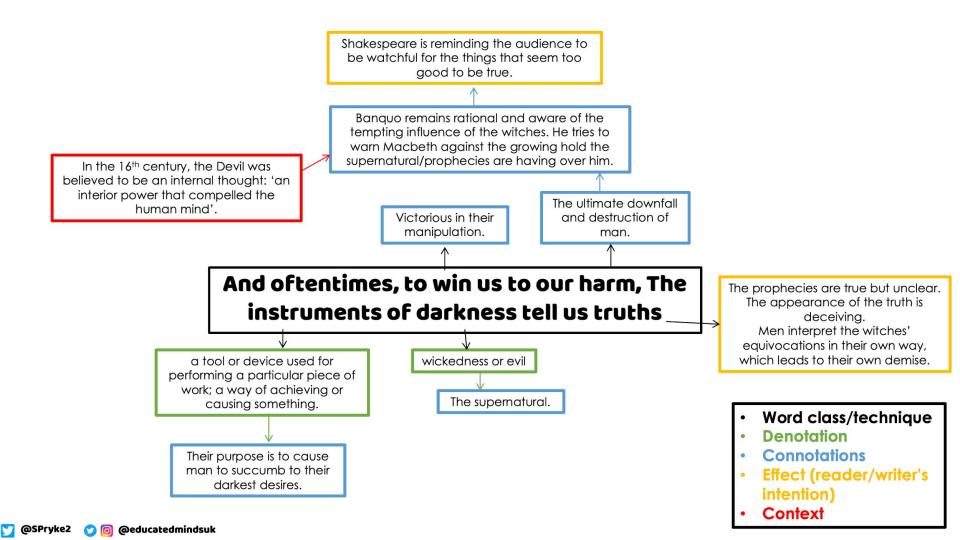
- Word class/technique
- Denotation
- Connotations
- Effect (reader/writer's intention)
 - Context











PRACTICE QUESTION

How does Shakespeare present the witches in Act 1 of Macbeth?



- Read, understand and respond to texts
- Critical style

written.

- Personal response
- Textual references to illustrate interpretations



- Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects
- Use relevant subject terminology

relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were

Show understanding of the

12 marks



6 marks



+4 marks

 Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.



What

What is Shakespeare trying to show about the witches?

How

How does Shakespeare show this?

Why

Why does Shakespeare show us this?

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Sentence Starters

- Shakespeare presents...
- Jacobean society...
- The reason for this...
- Shakespeare uses...
- The verb/adjective/noun/adverb means..
- This shows...suggests...symbolises
- This makes the audience learn/ understand/identify...
- Shakespeare wanted...
- Shakespeare needed the audience to...
- By making the audience see X,
 Shakespeare hoped that Y would happen and so Z would happen as a result.