

## *The Tragedy of Macbeth by William Shakespeare*

*The Tragedy of Macbeth* is a **play**, which is very different than a novel, poem, or short story. This work is meant to be seen; therefore, Shakespeare wrote this with specific details in mind. You will need to define and understand the following dramatic terms specific to plays:

- In Medias Res -
- Dramatic Irony -
- Fourth Wall -
- Action and Interaction: dialogue, monologues, soliloquies, and asides
- Paradox and Equivocation (goes along with dialogue and spoken performance)

While reading *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, **annotate the play**, focusing specifically on the themes listed below:

- Guilt and its corresponding effect on the mind/soul
- The nature of an ideal king
- Order and disorder (natural and unnatural and supernatural)
- Appearance versus reality

Next, you will be **tracing a word** throughout the play. For instance, your word may have an innocent or even good connotation at the beginning of the play; however, as Macbeth morally deteriorates, your word also may become increasingly negative or just flat out evil. See the list below to determine which word is yours (based on your last name):

Hand- A-F  
Blood- G-L  
Sleep- M-R  
Night- S-Z

This is an ongoing assignment while you are reading the play. I expect you to have a collection of quotes which best exemplify your theme. You can highlight them in your copies of *Macbeth*. I will check them at the start of the year!

You need to then take the motif that you are assigned and create a multi-modal presentation. What do I mean by this? I mean you need to explain the significance of your word in a typed 1 page document and then CREATE a media presentation to go along with it.

In the spirit of the times, you can create a physical product such as a painting, drawing, collage, or some kind of arts and crafts item. You can also explore other types of media like an Instagram montage of images, TikToks, YouTube videos which you will upload, SnapChat videos, etc. Of course the realm of music can be a wonderful media to explore, so you can create a Spotify playlist or write an original song or instrumental piece. I'm open to ideas, so if you have one please feel free to email me and ask!

Finally, **once you have finished reading the play**, please read and annotate the following Literary Criticism found in your Folger's Edition of *The Tragedy of Macbeth*:

- *Macbeth: A Modern Perspective* by Susan Snyder (201-211)

This play is often referred to as "The Scottish Play" and is believed to be cursed. The motif of the supernatural is often what attracts most to this work. Shakespeare wrote this for King James I-the first truly Scottish king on the throne and a deeply suspicious man who wrote about demonology and the occult. But perhaps more importantly, this is the psychological portrait of two people who are twisted by power and ambition. Happy Reading!