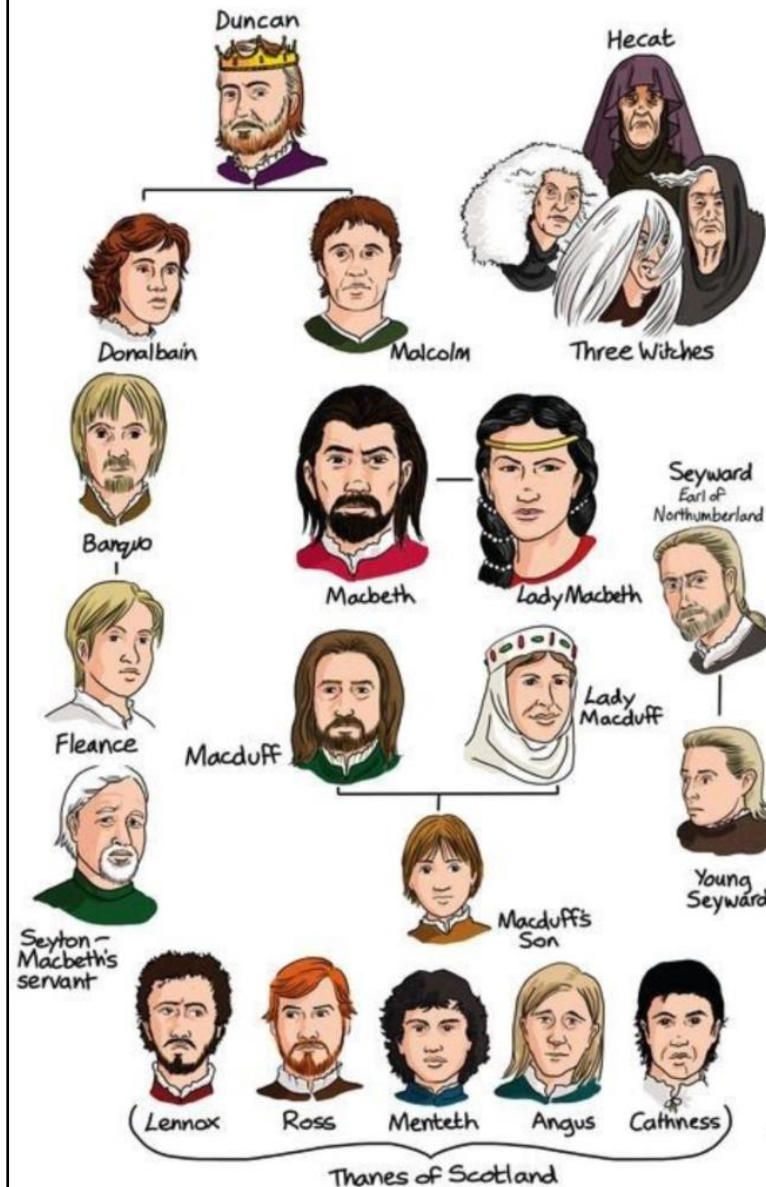


Year 8 – Macbeth – William Shakespeare

The Plot

- Macbeth and Banquo meet three witches, who prophesise that Macbeth will become King and Banquo's son will be king.
- The witches' first prophecy comes true and King Duncan makes Macbeth Thane of Cawdor.
- Lady Macbeth persuades Macbeth to murder King Duncan in his sleep.
- Lady Macbeth's and Macbeth frames King Duncan's servants as the murderers. Malcolm and Donalbain leave Scotland for their own safety.
- Macbeth becomes king.
- Macbeth worries about the witches' third prophecy and sends murderers to kill Banquo and his son.
- Macbeth is haunted by visions of Banquo's ghost.
- Macbeth visits the witches and they tell him: the only person he needs to beware of is Macduff, no one a woman has given birth to can harm him and he won't be defeated until Birnam Wood moves. He thinks he's unbeatable.
- Macbeth has Macduff's family murdered.
- Macduff and Malcolm arrive in Scotland with an army. On their way to attack Macbeth's castle they cut down branches from the trees in Birnam Wood to use as camouflage. When the wood moves, one of the witches' prophecies come true.
- Macduff reveals that he was born by a caesarean birth and kills Macbeth, fulfilling the final prophecy.



Assessment Questions:

BASELINE: How is Macbeth presented in Act One of 'Macbeth'?

FINAL ASSESSMENT: How far does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a violent character?

Use the key quotes to help you answer:

The Witches: "fair is foul, and foul is fair" (1.1).

The Captain: "brave Macbeth...with his brandished steel which smoked with bloody execution" "unseamed him from the navel to the chops" (1.2)

Macbeth: "Stars, hide your fires! Let not light see my black and deep desires" (1.4).

Lady Macbeth: "Come, you spirits/ That tend on mortal thoughts! unsex me here,/ And fill me from the crown to the toe, top-full/ Of direst cruelty." (1.5)

Lady Macbeth: "Look like the innocent flower, But be the serpent under it." (1.5)

Macbeth: "I have no spur/ To prick the sides of my intent, but only /Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself/ And falls on the other." (2.1)

Macbeth: "Methought I heard a voice cry, Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep." (2.2)

Macbeth: "I am in blood/ Stepp'd in so far, that, should I wade no more,/ Returning were as tedious as go o'er." (3.4)


The Witches: "By the pricking of my thumbs,/ Something wicked this way comes." (4.1)

Macduff: "But I must also feel it as a man./I cannot but remember such things were/That were most precious to me." (4.3)

Lady Macbeth: "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" (5.1)

Macbeth: "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow/ Creeps in this petty pace from day to day." (5.5)

Macbeth: "It is a tale/ Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,/ Signifying nothing."

<div>  <div> <div>Power</div> <div>Who or what controls our actions ?</div> </div> <div> <div>Leadership</div> <div>What does it mean to be a man in Macbeth?</div> </div> <div> <div>Morality</div> <div>How does it feel to kill a king?</div> </div> <div> <div>Identity</div> <div>What is a tragedy, and why is Macbeth a tragedy?</div> </div> </div>	
Key Vocabulary	Key Context
Heir – If you are the heir to something, it will belong to you after someone passes away.	Test yourself on the following bits of historical context.
Ambition – ambition is a strong desire to do or achieve something.	Macbeth was written soon after James VI became King of both England and Scotland. The two countries were united as Great Britain in 1606 . Was Shakespeare exploring the importance of unity through his portrayal of the Scottish Monarchy breaking down, and the English king saving them?
Fate – some people believe that fate is a powerful force that controls our actions.	
Prophecy – a prophecy is when someone predicts what will happen in the future.	
Masculinity – the qualities which are believed to make someone a man.	In the 17 th Century, people held traditional views of masculinity and femininity . Men were expected to be brave, loyal and honourable, while women were expected to be obedient and value their family. Shakespeare could have been challenging these views through his portrayal of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.
Transgression – if you transgress, you break a moral rule (rule of expected behaviour)	
Agency – if you have agency, you have total control over your actions or a situation.	
Manipulation – if you manipulate someone, you skillfully persuade them to do what you want.	James VI was obsessed with hunting witches and even published a book, <i>Daemonologie</i> , which educated people about witches. James VI believed that witches in England were conspiring against him to threaten his power . Many witch trials and executions took place in the 17 th century as the public began to greatly fear witches.
Regicide – regicide is the act of killing a king.	
Treason – treason is the crime of betraying your country or king.	
Guilt - guilt is an unhappy feeling which you get when you do something wrong.	James VI believed in the Divine Right of Kings , which meant he believed that God had chosen him to be have total authority over his country. Therefore, no one should challenge his power and control.
Divinity – if you are divine , you are like god or related to god.	
Tyranny – tyranny is a cruel or harsh control over a country. A tyrant is someone who treats the people they have power over in an unfair way.	
Humanity – your humanity is the qualities that make you a human.	The Great Chain of Being was the belief that everything in the world, from God, to Angels, to Humans and plants, has a place in a hierarchy of authority. People should know their place in the hierarchy and not try to rise above it. If they did ‘break the chain’, it would have serious consequences in society.
Downfall – a person’s downfall is their loss of success or power	
Tragedy - a tragedy is a terribly sad situation, which is often due to death.	