Act	Plot – 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare	Characte	r	Context
1	Act 1, scenes 1-4 - Macbeth and Banquo fight courageously in the King's battle. The King orders for Macbeth to become Thane of Cawdor, for his bravery in the battle. Macbeth does not yet know about the King's plan to make him Thane of Cawdor, and on the journey home with Banquo, they come across the witches. The witches hail Macbeth and say he will, one day, become King. Macbeth is honoured with the title: Thane of Cawdor, and plans are made for the King to dine at Macbeth's castle that evening. Act 1, scene 5-7 - When Lady Macbeth hears of the witches' prophecies, she plans to convince Macbeth to kill the King. Upon his return, they discuss the King's visit. Lady Macbeth is set on killing the King; however, Macbeth considers his loyalty to the King and decides not to kill him. Lady Macbeth insults Macbeth's masculinity and this encourages him to go ahead with the murder. Act 2, scenes 1-2 - A distressed Macbeth-tormented with the idea of killing the King- sees a dagger (a guilt-inspired hallucination) and performs a soliloquy. Suddenly, the bell sounds and Macbeth resolves to do the bloody deed. Macbeth kills the King, but is disturbed before panting the daggers on the guards. Furious, Lady Macbeth completes the task and Macbeth is left with another guilt-inspired hallucination: blood upon his hands. Act 2, scenes 3-4 - They find the King has been killed and The Macbeths put on a horrifying performance and, as planned, blame the King's guards. Macbeth is made King by the other Lords, as the King's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain) flee Scotland fearing for their lives. As Lady Macbeth begins to recede from centre stage, Macbeth becomes increasingly ambitious. Meanwhile, other characters – particularly Macduff – become suspicious of Macbeth.	Macbeth	A brave and heroic man who is influenced by prophecies. Easily tempted into murder for his ambition to the throne.	Good vs. evil - Shakespeare uses the battle of Macbeth against Duncan to represent what was going on at the moment with James (the 1st) developing the royal court of England and the theory of the divine right.
			A manipulative woman who is hungry for power and encourages Macbeth to commit murder.	undeveloped and people sought for explanations in life. There were no reasonable explanations so belief and superstitions were created. Elizabethan beliefs - In Elizabethan times they thought that the country was stable only if the King is good and virtuous. They also believed that evil occurs in darkness which is a reoccurring theme in Macbeth's friend. Macbeth. The play was considered a thriller- a threat to an anointed King and the perceived evil behind the threat and alluded to the Gunpowder Plot 1605. Masculinity and femininity are not portrayed in uniform ways in Macbeth. Although women are not fragile, they are not strong either. Lady Macbeth goads her husband into murdering Duncan, and she sometimes possesses more masculine traits of ambition and follow-through. However, she also demonstrates weakness, because she is the one who falls apart in the end. The witches are another example of this contradictory strong feminism. They are even described as men in some ways.
		King Duncan	Duncan is the rightful King of Scotland who is murdered by Macbeth for his throne.	
2		Banquo	Banquo is a loyal and honourable Scottish nobleman who is an impressive warrior and Macbeth's friend.	
		The Witches	The witches are the physical embodiment of evil in the play. Like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, they represent temptation.	
		Malcolm	One of King's sons and named by his father to be the next king.	
3	Act 3, scenes 1-3 - Macbeth and Lady Macbeth plan to host a feast and invite Banquo. Macbeth performs another soliloquy and outlines his fears of the witches' prophecy: Banquo's line will become King. Due to this, Macbeth orders the deaths of Banquo and his son, Fleance. Fleance escapes. Act 3, scenes 4-6 - Macbeth learns of the escape of Fleance. At the table- in front of the other guests – Macbeth has a vision of Banquo's ghost. Horrified, he responds to the ghost and Lady Macbeth makes excuses for her husband. A tormented Macbeth plans to go and see the witches. At this point, even the minor characters are discussing Macbeth and labelling him a 'tyrant'. Macduff and Malcolm are investing in the help of the King of England and this spurs Macbeth in to preparing for war.	Macduff	Macduff believes Macbeth to be Duncan's murderer and does not consider him fit to be king. He is a shrewd man who rejects beliefs in witchcraft Fleance Banquo's son who escapes and poses a threat	
		Themes	to Macbeth's future as king. Heaven and Heil - Snakespeare's debt to Scripture is profound; biblical imagery is woven into every play.	
	Act 4, scenes 1-3 - Macbeth finds the witches and asks them to reveal the truth of their prophecies.	Manipulation		spiral as he realised what he was doing and everything that occurred in the aftermath was God's way of
4	Apparitions outline his future: a floating head says: 'Beware of Macduff', a bloody child appears and tells him, 'No of woman born/shall harm Macbeth' and that he will be safe until Birnam Wood moves to Dunsinane Hill. Meanwhile, Macduff and Malcolm are joining forces. Once Macduff hears that Macbeth has killed his family, they plan to take their revenge.	Supernatur	al	punishing him for his sins.
		Ambition		Techniques and Terminology
5	Act 5, scenes 1-11 Lady Macbeth dies and Macbeth prepares himself for battle. The battle commences and Macbeth feels invincible. Malcolm enters the castle and tells Macbeth that he was born from a caesarean linking to the witches' prophecy. Malcolm emerges with Macbeth's head in his hand and proclaims Malcolm King of Scotland.	Violence		Dramatic Irony Foreshadowing Pathetic Fallacy Soliloquies Imagery
		Religion	Values	
		Elizabethan Values		Metaphors