

Macbeth

Characters

Macbeth
Lady Macbeth
Duncan
Banquo
Malcolm
Donalbain
Macduff
Lady Macduff
Thanes of Scotland
The Witches
The Porter
Minor Characters

Themes

Supernatural
Darkness and Light
Appearance and reality
Order and chaos
Ambition
Bravery
Power
Gender Roles
Tyranny
Leadership
Sickness and health
Natural world

Context

Shakespeare
Jacobean/Elizabethan Times
Divine Right of Kings
James 1
Chain of Being and the Body Politic
The Gunpowder Plot and Gowrie conspiracies
Religion and the Supernatural
Macbeth: The Source
The Four Humours
Illnesses and Epidemics
Social Hierarchy
Gender Roles

Language

Dramatic Irony
Figurative Language

Literary Style

Nobility and blank verse
The Witches – chanting (trochaic tetrameter)