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## **Harry MacPotter**

*Developed by Kate Buckley, David Daniel and Sarah Kooiman*

In the most recent installment of J.K. Rowling's popular *Harry Potter* series, several comparisons can be made between Voldemort and Harry and the play *Macbeth*.

From Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince:

*...what would happen to a wizard so determined to evade death that he would be prepared to murder many times, rip his soul repeatedly...? (p. 500)*

*...Voldemort seemed to grow less human with the passing years, and the transformation he has undergone seemed to be explicable if his soul was mutilated beyond the realms of what we might call 'usual evil'... (p. 502)*

*...Voldemort is now so immersed in evil, and these crucial parts of himself have been detached for so long, he does not feel as we do. Perhaps, at the point of his death, he might be aware of his loss. (p. 507)*

*...Voldemort himself created his worst enemy, just as tyrants do everywhere! Have you any idea how much tyrants fear the people they oppress? All of them realize that, one day, amongst their many victims, there is sure to be one who rises against them and strikes back! Voldemort is no different! Always he was on the lookout for the one who would challenge him. He heard the prophecy and he leapt into action, with the result that he handpicked the man most likely to finish him... (p. 510)*

*...Your ability to love is the only protection that can possibly work against the lure of power... (p. 511)*

*Imagine that you had never heard of the prophecy? ... You see, the prophecy does not mean you have to do anything! ... In other words, you are free to choose your way, quite free to turn your back on the prophecy! (p. 512)*

## Activities

- Using these examples (and any others that you know of), compare and contrast Harry Potter and *Macbeth*. Make a list of the parallels that you find. For example:

Harry Potter

Voldemort receives a partial prophecy

Voldemort kills Harry's parents

Macbeth

Macbeth is given a prophecy

Macbeth has Macduff's family killed

- What about the characters? What parallels do you see between characters in the two works? For example: Between Harry & Macduff and Voldemort & Macbeth
- What role does prophecy play in the lives of Harry, Voldemort, Macbeth and Macduff? Are they "free to choose [their] way" or does prophecy govern their actions?
- Discuss Macbeth's journey/descent in terms of Harry's journey. How are they similar? Different?
- If Harry lived in Macbeth's Scotland (Harry MacPotter), how would the following subjects help him?

Classes at *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry*

Apparitions

Care of Magical Creatures

Charms

Defense Against the Dark Arts

Divination

Herbology

History of Magic

Potions

Transfigurations

- Where and how do the subjects of these classes show up in *Macbeth*?