

Quotes linked to the theme of **ambition/power**

Macbeth

- He talks about his 'black and deep desires' to be King.
- By the end of the play he is not afraid to die and has gained confidence, 'I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd.'
- 'Lay on, Macduff, and damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!' Macbeth's final words, showing his false feelings of invincibility and sheer ambition not to give up.



Lady Macbeth

- 'But screw your courage to the sticking place / And we'll not fail.' Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to stop being a coward about killing Duncan.

Banquo

- 'What, can the devil speak true?' His reaction when he hears Macbeth has been named Thane of Cawdor.

Quotes linked to the theme of **deception**

Macbeth

- He knows he needs to be two-faced 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know.'

Banquo

- 'Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, all, as the weird women promised, and I fear thou play'st most foully for't.' Alone, Banquo reflects on Macbeth's rise to the throne.

Quotes linked to the theme of **guilt/paranoia**

Macbeth

- 'Is this a dagger which I see before me, / The handle toward my hand?' Macbeth hallucinates and sees a dagger on his way to kill Duncan.
- After he has killed Duncan, he becomes paranoid about what he has done, 'How is't with me, when every noise appals me?'
- 'Methought I heard a voice cry, 'Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep!' After killing Duncan, Macbeth fears he will never sleep again from the guilt.
- 'It will have blood they say: blood will have blood.' After Banquo's ghost has gone, Macbeth feels that his crime is pursuing him.

Lady Macbeth

- 'Nought's had, all's spent, where our desire is got without content. / 'Tis safer to be that which we destroy / Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.' Lady Macbeth finds that getting what you want doesn't bring peace.
- 'Out damned spot! Out, I say!' Lady Macbeth hallucinates blood on her hands before her death.



Quotes linked to the theme of religion

Macbeth

- He cannot say 'Amen' after the murder, showing he has a conscience.

Quotes linked to the theme of good versus evil

Macbeth

- He becomes more evil as the play progresses and even mimics the witches when he says 'so fair and foul a day I have not seen.'
- 'I am in blood / Stepped in so far that should I wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o'er.' Macbeth reflects on the fact that there is no way back from the evil he has started.



The Witches

- 'Fair is foul, and foul is fair'. The witches' philosophy on life, showing that nothing is ever what it seems.
- 'Something wicked this way comes'. The witches predict Macbeth's arrival before he arrives to see them the second time.
- 'None of woman born shall harm Macbeth'. The second apparition delivers this deceptive prophecy which makes Macbeth feel invincible.

Quotes linked to the theme of the supernatural

Macbeth

- 'And with thy bloody and invisible hand cancel and tear to pieces that great bond which keeps me pale!' Macbeth summons help for Banquo's death.

Quotes linked to subverting expectations of **gender at the time**

Lady Macbeth

- ‘yet do I fear thy nature, / It is too full o’th’ milk of human kindness / To catch the nearest way.’ After receiving her husband’s letter about the witches’ prophecy, expresses her fear that he isn’t bad enough.
- She tells Macbeth to ‘Leave all the rest to me.’
- ‘Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here / And fill me from the crown to the toe topfull of direst cruelty’ Upon hearing that King Duncan is to stay the night in her castle, Lady Macbeth builds herself up to kill him.

