

Macbeth - Key quotes about the character of Macbeth

Macbeth fights well in the war against Norway and is praised by the King	"Oh full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!"
Macbeth is given the title of Thane of Cawdor, after the traitorous Thane of Cawdor is executed.	"Stars, hide your fires! Let not light see my black and deep desires"
Macbeth is told by the witches that he will one day be King. Secretly, he wants it to come true.	"For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name")
Macbeth doubts his wife's idea to kill the King – he thinks he should be protecting him, not murdering him	"We will proceed no further in this business"
Macbeth tries to tell Lady Macbeth that they will not go ahead with the plan	"Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all, and I fear thou play'dst most foully for't"
Macbeth kills the King and thinks he can hear voices saying that he will never be able to rest again	"Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more! Macbeth doth murder sleep!'"
Banquo starts to suspect Macbeth of foul play	"Tyrant! Show thy face!" "Turn Hell Hound, turn!"
Macbeth is plagued by guilty thoughts	"What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won"
Macbeth is told to beware Macduff by the witches. He decides to kill Lady Macduff and children	"The castle of Macduff I'll surprise....give to the edge of the knife his wife, his babes"
Macduff returns with an army to kill Macbeth	"As his host, I should against his murderer shut the door, not bear the knife myself"
Macduff fights and kills Macbeth	"This dead butcher and his fiend-like queen"

Macbeth - Key quotes about the character of Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth receives Macbeth's letter about the witches. She worries that he is too nice to do what needs to be done.	"Had he not resembled my father as he slept, I had done't"
Lady Macbeth calls on spirits to make her evil enough to go through with the plan to kill Duncan	"Things without all remedy should be without regard; what's done is done"
She persuades Macbeth to kill the King by taunting him about his manhood	"When you durst do it, then you were a man"
While she waits for Macbeth to return from killing the King, she says that if Duncan hadn't looked like her father, she would have killed him herself	"Glamis you art, and Cawdor, and shalt be what thou art promised: yet I do fear thy nature, it is too full of the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way....Art not without ambition, but without the illness should attend it..."
She tells Macbeth not to worry, that they can't undo things	"The Queen, my lord, is dead"
Later in the play, Lady Macbeth suffers extreme guilt, and keeps washing her hands in her sleep	"Come you spirits....unsex me here and fill me from the crown to the toe, top full of direst cruelty"
Lady Macbeth commits suicide.	"What, will these hands ne'er be clean?Who would've thought the old man to have so much blood in him?"