




# MACBETH

Shakespeare's shortest and bloodiest tragedy, *Macbeth* tells the story of a brave Scottish general who receives a prophecy from three evil witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Over taken by his ambitious thoughts and called to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and seizes the throne for himself. He begins his reign racked with guilt and fear and soon becomes a tyrannical ruler, as he is forced to commit more and more murders to protect himself from enmity and suspicion. The bloodbath swiftly propels Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to arrogance, madness, and death.



SYMBOLS			
<b>Blood</b> 	<b>Animal Imagery</b> 	<b>The Weather</b> 	<b>Darkness</b>
Ex.  (1.1. )			
Sign. Represents his strength and prowess on the battlefield. Loyalty to defend the king is shown through his bloody actions.			
Ex. "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?" Macbeth cries after he has killed Duncan, even as his wife scolds him and says that a little water will do the job (2.2.58–59).			
Sign.			
Ex.			
Sign.			

Ex.			
Sign.			
Ex. "Out, damned spot; out, I say . . . who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?" (5.1.30-34)			
Sign. LM wrings her hands as she wanders through the halls of their castle near the close of the play. Reliving their actions and seeing blood on her hands that is not really there demonstrates she has been driven mad by her choice to consort with evil. She demonstrates regret for her deeds.			
<p><b>Insightful Conclusions about Blood</b></p> <p>Blood is everywhere in <i>Macbeth</i>, beginning with the opening battle between the Scots and the Norwegian invaders, which is described in harrowing terms by the wounded captain in Act 1, scene 2.</p> <p>Once Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embark upon their murderous journey, blood comes to symbolize their guilt, and they begin to feel that their crimes have stained them in a way that cannot be washed clean. It takes LM longer to get to this horrific realization</p> <p><b>Blood symbolizes the guilt that sits like a permanent stain on the consciences of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, one that hounds them to their graves.</b></p>			

