

# MACBETH THEME-TRACING TASK

Consider **two thematic motifs** (selected from the five covered in the in-class notes) as they appear in the first three acts of the play; in three analytical (not just summarizing), MLA-formatted, **present-tense** (not past-tense), third-person (not first nor second person) paragraphs which feature **relevant, woven, cited quotations** as well as the playwright – **Shakespeare** – **as the subject** of the majority of their sentences (*see page two of this document*), respond to the following mini-prompts:

## MOTIF #1 (first paragraph)

**1a)** How does Shakespeare initially introduce this concept in the play? Be specific here, identifying and describing the specific moment in the play in which this idea first appears as well as its potential impact on the audience.

**2–3 sentences**

**1b)** How does the playwright develop this motif, fleshing it out as a complex question rather than a mere idea? Identify and explain at least two moments from the play's first three acts in which the thematic motif is expanded, subverted, trivialized, or explored.

**3–4 sentences**

## MOTIF #2 (second paragraph)

**2a)** How does Shakespeare initially introduce this concept in the play? Be specific here, identifying and describing the specific moment in the play in which this idea first appears as well as its potential impact on the audience.

**2–3 sentences**

**2b)** How does the playwright develop this motif, fleshing it out as a complex question rather than a mere idea? Identify and explain at least two moments from the play's first three acts in which the thematic motif is expanded, subverted, trivialized, or explored.

**3–4 sentences**

## BOTH MOTIFS (third paragraph)

**3a)** Based on the first three acts of *Macbeth*, how do you notice these two thematic motifs interacting with each other? How do their developments intertwine? In your response discuss a specific scene which speaks to BOTH of these motifs.

**3–5 sentences**

**3b)** What do the action and language of the specific scene you chose suggest about how these two ideas are connected in the human experience?

**1–2 sentence(s)**

*Submit your carefully proofread three paragraphs to Turnitin.com by the due date!*

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Shakespeare ... OR Shakespeare's choice to x...

<i>alludes to</i>	<i>demonstrates</i>	<i>explores</i>	<i>produces</i>
<i>alters</i>	<i>depicts</i>	<i>foreshadows</i>	<i>proposes</i>
<i>asserts</i>	<i>describes</i>	<i>highlights</i>	<i>reflects</i>
<i>changes</i>	<i>details</i>	<i>hints at</i>	<i>refutes</i>
<i>characterizes</i>	<i>differentiates</i>	<i>ignites</i>	<i>repudiates</i>
<i>clarifies</i>	<i>dispels</i>	<i>illustrates</i>	<i>reveals</i>
<i>compares</i>	<i>documents</i>	<i>implies</i>	<i>satirizes</i>
<i>conjures up</i>	<i>elaborates upon</i>	<i>infers</i>	<i>shifts</i>
<i>connotes</i>	<i>elicits</i>	<i>inspires</i>	<i>solidifies</i>
<i>constrains</i>	<i>elucidates</i>	<i>invokes</i>	<i>specifies</i>
<i>construes</i>	<i>employs</i>	<i>is supported by</i>	<i>stirs</i>
<i>contrasts</i>	<i>enhances</i>	<i>juxtaposes</i>	<i>stresses the</i>
<i>contributes to</i>	<i>enunciates</i>	<i>maintains</i>	<i>suggests</i>
<i>conveys</i>	<i>evokes</i>	<i>manipulates</i>	<i>tackles</i>
<i>creates</i>	<i>exemplifies</i>	<i>notes</i>	<i>transcends</i>
<i>delineates</i>	<i>explains</i>	<i>portrays</i>	<i>twists</i>

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## MACBETH THEME-TRACING TASK RUBRIC

### CONTENT (3 points)

- You've clearly identified at least seven specific moments of the play and have briefly discussed their impact on the audience and/or the ideas presented by the play.
  - one point for each of the three paragraphs' adherence to the mini prompts

### STYLE (3 points)

- Your analysis is dominant over your plot summary.
  - one point for your interpretations simply outnumbering your observations
- You maintained literary present tense (except when discussing events explicitly in the past).
  - one point for just keepin' it L.P.T. (literary present tense)
- You wrote about half of your sentences featuring Shakespeare (or a synonym such as the author, the playwright, the bard, etc.) as their subject.
  - one point for your sentences about Will simply outnumbering the rest

### FORMAT (4 points)

- Your submitted document is three paragraphs in length (following the structure provided by the mini-prompts) and is in full MLA format.
  - one point for perfect MLA format
- You've included at least three quotations that are smoothly woven and parenthetically cited in the proper format to support your observations and interpretations.
  - one point for each (up to three) – quality over quantity
  - The first witch's question about when "[they] shall ... meet again" would be woven and cited like this (I.i.1).

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