

Jacobean – the time while James I was ruling.

'Macbeth' and the Jacobean era

Today we are learning more information about the play and its context.

We are also developing out note-taking skills.

Starter – plot sort.

- You each have the plot of 'Macbeth' in front of you in 19 parts, they have been muddled up. The first and last parts are correct.
- To solve this you will need to consider:
 - What skills do we use to solve a problem?
- Using inference & deduction cut up the sections and arrange them in the right order.

- Over the next few slides you are going to see information about 'Macbeth', James I and the Jacobean era.
- You are responsible for taking your own notes.
- You will be tested at the end of each section!

King James I

- James I was born June 1566 & died March 1625.
- James was proclaimed King James VI of Scotland in 1567.
- He became King James I of Great Britain & Ireland between 1603 – 1625.
- There were several plots & assassination attempts during his reign. The most famous being the Gunpowder Plot in 1605.
- He wrote several books including, 'Daemonologie' 1597 which was about the supernatural.
- James I became obsessed with the threat posed by witches.
- He attended witch trials in Denmark and over saw the torture of accused witches.
- James I enjoyed literature & the theatre.
- James I granted Shakespeare's company the greatest compliment by becoming their patron.

James I test.

1. What year was the gunpowder plot?
2. What was James I's 1597 book called?
3. When did James become James VI of Scotland?
4. What year did James become James I of Great Britain and Ireland?
5. What compliment did James I pay Shakespeare?

Consider...

- How good were your notes?
- Discuss with your partner: How do we take effective notes?

'Macbeth'

- 'Macbeth' was most likely written in 1606.
- 'Macbeth' is Shakespeare's shortest tragedy.
- The story is based on historical accounts, in 'Holinshed's Chronicles'. However, the play has changed a lot of the facts.
- 'Macbeth' clearly reflects the playwright's close relationship with the king.
 - Paid homage to the king's Scottish lineage
 - James I claims to have been descended from Banquo. Macbeth changed the story so that Banquo was not involved in Duncan's murder.
 - The plot of bad versus good kingship, shown by Macbeth & Duncan, was relevant as James was establishing himself as the new king of England.

- Many people believe that the play was a warning against treason. Especially, as it was written soon after the Gunpowder Plot.
- Lady Macbeth defies the traditional role of women in Jacobean times – compassion, motherhood & vulnerability.
- Backstage across theatres today many people believe that saying the play's name out loud will bring bad luck. It's often referred to as 'The Scottish Play'

'Macbeth' test

1. When is the play believed to have been written?
2. How did Shakespeare change the character of Banquo?
3. What's the name of the book where Shakespeare got his historical information?
4. What do some people think the play is a warning against?

Witches & the supernatural.

- Before the rise of Christianity, people strongly believed in witches.
- Before science could explain natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and droughts take place people invented all sorts of explanations to explain why bad things happened.
- One of the ways explained the unexplained was the idea of witches.
- Once Christianity became established, the works of the devil became associated with witches. It was thought that witches were in league with the devil.
- People believed that a woman made a pact with the devil to gain certain powers for the price of her soul.

- During James I's reign, Parliament passed a law concerning witchcraft which condemned anyone to death who practised it.
- People believed witches could:
 - Fly through the air.
 - Predict the future
 - Vanish into thin air.
 - Become your mortal enemy if you refused them food.
 - Make people mad.
 - Control the weather.
 - Cast spells to ensure victory in battle, keep people safe and sound.
 - Never be trusted because they were evil.
 - Use animals to carry out tasks for them.

Witches & the supernatural test.

- What was the penalty for witchcraft?
- How did witches gain their powers?
- What are three powers that it was believed witches had?

- Has your note taking improved since the start of the lesson?
 - Discuss how it has developed with your partner.
- How could it continue to improve?