

Under Today's Journal

-Write a paragraph that summarizes what has happened in *Macbeth* so far.

-Include a prediction about what you think will happen in the play (do you think the witches' prophecies will come true? If so-how?)

Macbeth: Themes, Motifs, and Symbols



What are some examples of themes from the book *A Long Way Gone*

With person sitting across from you
come up with a definition of theme

Theme

- Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work
- A theme is not simply the subject of a literary work, but rather a statement that the **text** seems to be making about that subject.
- The statement can be a moral or a lesson.

Theme: *A Long Way Gone* Example

- In the book *A Long Way Gone* a major subject was the effect war had on families.
- The theme Beah develops in the book is that no matter how hard a person tried to remain a loyal son, daughter, mother, or father the war stripped a person of all familial identity. The war eventually caused most people to not care about anything including family members.

Themes

- There can/should be multiple subjects and themes in a literary work

Subjects in *Macbeth*

Today we read 15 pages of the play. Thinking back on the reading what are some major topics/subjects that have already appeared. Make a list of these under today's journal.



Subjects in *Macbeth*

Subjects in *Macbeth*

- Appearance vs. Reality
- Violence
- Gender
- Time
- Natural vs. Unnatural
- Ambition

A Theme is the statement Shakespeare is Making About Each Subject

Subjects

- Appearance vs. Reality
- Violence
- Gender
- Time
- Natural vs. Unnatural
- Ambition

Themes

- ????????
- ????????
- ????????
- ????????
- ????????
- ????????

The Key to Discovering What an Author is Saying about a Subject is to meticulously track that Subject

-Working in groups find as many references/examples of these subjects.

Write the page number and as much of the quote as will fit in the box.

-Appearance vs. Reality

-Violence

-Gender

-Time

-Natural vs. Unnatural

-Ambition

Subject Tracking

-Take 15 minutes and go over today's and previous reading.

-Fill out your blue sheet as thoroughly as possible.

-Write the scene #.Act#.line #s (1.2.10-12)

-Write a brief description in the box.

-Appearance vs. Reality

-Violence

-Gender

-Time

-Natural vs. Unnatural

-Ambition

All the Right Questions ???????

- As you track a subject, you want to discover a its theme by asking the right questions.
- You will need to you use the questioning skills that we have been developing during Socratic Seminars

A Theme is the statement Shakespeare is Making About Each Subject

Subjects

- Appearance vs. Reality
- Violence
- Gender
- Time
- Natural vs. Unnatural
- Ambition

Themes

- Table 1
- Table 2 (Table 7)
- Table 3
- Table 4
- Table 5
- Table 6

Working with your partner develop three questions from specific moments during pages 2-100 that will help us further our understanding of Shakespeare's theme on your assigned subject. You are working backwards. Instead of stating the theme, develop questions that will help us arrive at the theme.

Question Example

Appearance vs. Reality

- At the beginning of the play the witches say "Fair is foul, and foul is fair." What does this mean? Does this idea resonate throughout the play? If so, how?

Ambition

- What is significant about Macbeth's reaction to the witches prophecies.
- Is the fact the witches choose to visit Macbeth a sign that he is ambitious

Each pair needs to write their questions at the top of a piece of poster paper

Wall of Silence

With your partner you will go to each table.
Pairs at front will go to front of each table, and
pairs in back will go to the back of each table.

-At each table you will put your
thoughts/responses to the posed questions

-Try to use evidence from the book

-At each stop try to add something to the silent
conversation

-A thought

-A question

-A quote

-A connection

-An insight

-An observation

Appearance vs. Reality

Table 1

Appearance vs. Reality

- At the beginning of the play the witches say "Fair is foul, and foul is fair." What does this mean? Does this idea resonate throughout the play? If so, how?
- How do Macbeth and Banquo respond to the witches' prophecy in act one, scene three? Does it seem real to them? Why or why not?
- What kinds of hallucinations and visions occur in the play? What purpose do they serve?
- Why is a doctor called in to tend to Lady Macbeth? What's wrong with her?

Violence

Table 2/7

Violence

- The battlefield is central to most characters in the play, who have won their honors by killing others in this arena?
- What kind of violence is acceptable on this political front?
- Is violence a central part of the natural world? Are humans any more than animals here?
- The play ends with as much violence as the original battle. Is there a suggestion here of cyclical and never-ending violence? Is there any way to argue against Macbeth's claim that blood demands blood? And when will all the killing stop?
- Is violence a justified reaction to a wrong, or is it just an emotion out of control that can be rightfully calmed with thought?

Gender

Table 3

Gender

- How does Lady Macbeth influence her husband? What's her strategy?
- What is meant when Lady Macbeth says Macbeth is too "full o'th'milk of human kindness"?
- Why does Lady Macbeth call on spirits to "unsex" her? And, what does she mean by that?
- How does the play define "manhood"? What is it that makes one a "man" in *Macbeth*?
- How are women characters portrayed in *Macbeth*? What kinds of roles do they play?

Time

Table 4

Time

- What is the weird sisters' relationship to time? Are they the only figures capable of seeing into the future?
- What does murder do to time?
- What kind of future does Lady Macbeth imagine for herself and her husband?

Natural vs. Unnatural

Table 5

Natural vs. Unnatural

- How do Banquo and Macbeth react when they first encounter the weird sisters in Act I, Scene iii?
- The witches accurately predict Macbeth's future but do they control his fate? Why or why not?
- How would you characterize the witches' speech? What does it suggest about their characters? How does it set them apart from other characters in the play?
- Are there connections or similarities between the witches and any other characters in the play? If so, what are they, exactly?

Ambition

Table 6

Ambition

- What is it that compels Macbeth to murder Duncan? What drives him to continue committing heinous acts after the initial murder?
- What does Lady Macbeth say about her husband's ambition? What does this reveal about her desires?
- If Macbeth believed he was fated to have the crown, can he be credited (or blamed) with ambition in trying to gain it?
- What fuels Malcolm's interest in defending Scotland? Do his actions up to the final battle indicate that he's prepared to be King? Is he guilty of or credited with ambition? What is the difference between him and Macbeth, if the office they hold will be the same?

Motifs

- Motif: a unifying element in an artistic work especially any repeating **image, symbol, or theme**

Motifs in Macbeth

Motifs in Macbeth

- Hallucinations
- Violence
- Prophecy

Symbols

- Symbols are concrete objects, characters, figures, and colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts

Symbols in Macbeth

Symbols in Macbeth

- Blood...(What abstract idea does it represent?)
- The weather...(what abstract idea does it represent?)

