

Name:

Date:

Choice Board

Macbeth

Act I

Directions: You must complete FOUR assignments for the above-mentioned act from the play Macbeth. Choose one assignment from each column, and one from each topic.

	Fact-Based	Interpretive	Beyond	Creative
Witches	What do the witches discuss when we first meet them in Act 1, scene 1? Be specific.	In scene three, one of the witches tells a story about a sailor's wife. Paraphrase the story. What does this show us about these "weird" sisters? How are we, the audience, supposed to feel?	What popular culture ideas do we have about witches? How are they similar or different from the witches Shakespeare describes? (think appearances, actions, morals, etc)	<u>Macbeth</u> has been produced for nearly five hundred years, with settings and interpretations ranging from formal to historical to modern. Your task: Draw a picture of how you would present the witches and write a paragraph describing how you would having them act, speak, and move, and why.
Macbeth	How does the king reward Macbeth's success in battle?	Before we even meet our title character, we hear of his "glory" in battle. How is he described? What were his glorious acts? What does this description tell us about Macbeth?	Macbeth is shocked when the witches' predictions come true. Closely examine his aside on page 336 (lines 128-142). Re-write the entire aside in modern English .	So much has happened to Macbeth in just one act! Create a one-page diary entry for him detailing his actions, emotions, and desires in Act 1. Be specific and use sensory details to help us "see" what you're writing about.
Lady Macbeth	How does Lady Macbeth suggest she and her husband should act when Duncan comes to visit? Why is this important?	Do you think that Lady Macbeth could actually kill Duncan? Use textual evidence to support your opinion.	Lady Macbeth compares her husband's weak resolve to a cat (in a proverb) who wouldn't catch fish because it feared wet feet. What does the proverb really mean? Either describe a time when <i>you</i> were like the cat OR when you taunted <i>others</i> for acting like the cat.	Create an open mind diagram to "dive into" Lady Macbeth's mind. Use symbols, words and quotes to show her motivation and inner thoughts.

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Act II

Directions: You must complete FOUR assignments for the above-mentioned act from the play Macbeth. Choose one assignment from each column, and one from each topic.

	Fact-Based	Interpretive	Beyond	Creative
Dreams & Fate	What keeps Banquo awake (Act 2, scene 2)? What does he dream of?	Prior to murdering Duncan, Macbeth sees a dagger floating before him. After the murder, he describes voices he heard telling him he would “sleep no more”. Is Macbeth losing his mind? Or is fate guiding him? Are the three “weird sisters” to blame? Explain.	Lennox describes the owl’s cries he heard the night Duncan was murdered. An owl’s shriek was considered a sign of death and doom. What might our culture consider an “omen” of death or danger?	You are the casting director for a major Hollywood studio. Steven Spielberg is mounting a star-studded, big budget production of <u>Macbeth</u> . Prepare a “dream” cast list featuring current film stars, complete with photos, for the following roles: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Duncan, Macduff, Malcom, and Fleance.
Macbeth	How does Macbeth’s reaction to blood differ from that of his wife?	Why is Macbeth so worried that he cannot say the word “Amen”?	Macbeth tries to explain why he killed Duncan’s guards. Re-write – line for line – this entire section (2.3.108-118) in modern English.	Create a detailed cartoon storyboard for Act II of the play. Center most of the action on Macbeth.
Lady Macbeth	After smearing the two guards with Duncan’s blood, Lady Macbeth tells her “wimpy” husband, “My hands are of your color, but I shame / To wear a heart so white” (2.2.64-65). What does this mean?	Lady Macbeth just <i>happens</i> to have a strong sedative in the house. She doesn’t mention this to her husband even when they are planning the murder. She just uses it. Do you think she might have used this sedative on her husband in the past? Why or why not?	Some argue that Lady Macbeth only <i>pretends</i> to faint when she hears of Duncan’s murder. Why might she be pretending? How might this action be perceived today?	Compose a poem (or song lyrics) that express Lady Macbeth’s emotions, thoughts, dreams, fears, etc. Twenty line minimum. Please include illustrations or images to enhance your poem’s (or lyrics’) meaning.

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Macbeth

Act III

Directions: You must complete FOUR assignments for the above-mentioned act from the play Macbeth. Choose one assignment from each column, and one from each topic.

	Fact-Based	Interpretive	Beyond	Creative (in color and on a separate page)
Macbeth	Macbeth worries that Malcolm and Donalbain are away, “filling their hearers with strange invention” (I.i.31-32). What does this mean? What “strange inventions” might they be telling others?	Why aren’t Macbeth and Lady Macbeth happy being king and queen? Use textual evidence to support your idea.	Macbeth’s guilt (or approaching insanity) allows him to “see” Banquo’s ghost at the feast. Describe a time when you felt so guilty that you become paranoid and/or imagined (dreamt) something that wasn’t real.	Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre did not have the fancy special effects and computer graphics available to modern day film productions. Illustrate a creative way in which Shakespeare might have presented the idea of Banquo’s ghost appearing, disappearing and reappearing in scene four.
Banquo	Who is Banquo riding with the day of the feast? Why is this an important detail?	Banquo worries that Macbeth was somehow responsible for Duncan’s murder (3.1.1-3). Why doesn’t Banquo share his suspicions of Macbeth with others?	Why are Banquo’s last words a request for his son to avenge his death? Is this idea of revenge an archaic one? Why or why not?	Banquo’s murder scene is a difficult one to visualize on stage. Block the scene (illustrate and describe basic stage movements, props, actor placement, etc.) paying close attention to the description of the setting (time & place) and the action of the scene.
Things are not as they appear	What does Macbeth tell his wife to do at the feast? (III.ii.30-35) Why is she able to take the speech at face value? What do we know that she doesn’t?	Banquo tells his “friend”, Macbeth, to “let your Highness / Command upon me, to the which my duties / Are with a most indissoluble tie / For ever knit” (III.i.16-19). How might this statement be ironic? Is Banquo heartfelt in this avowal? Or is his true meaning hidden?	In Act III, scene 1, Macbeth meets with two murders, but three take part in the actual murder in scene three. How do you explain this discrepancy? Who might this third murderer be?	Macbeth tries his best to hide his guilt, but after his guests leave the banquet, he worries that he will be discovered. Look back at his paranoid musings (3.4.123-127) and re-write them in modern English. On the same page, illustrate an interpretation of what Macbeth “sees” in his mind’s eye.

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Act IV

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	Fact-Based	Interpretive	Beyond	Creative (in color and on a separate page)
Macbeth	What does Macbeth mean when he says, "From this moment / The very first firstlings of my heart shall be / The firstlings of my hand" (4.1.146-148)? What has prompted him to say this?	Why does Macbeth decide to kill Macduff's family? Is this decision necessary? Explain.	Recall the views of vengeance, heroism, and kingship expressed in <i>Beowulf</i> . Which characters in <i>Macbeth</i> are most like Beowulf? Which are more like the monsters? Cite details from both works to support your ideas.	Macbeth is faced with three terrifying apparitions when first in the witches cave. Draw, in detail, all three and describe (in your own words) what each tells Macbeth about his future.
Witches	How do the witches show Macbeth that their prediction for Banquo (in Act I) is, indeed, coming true?	How is Macbeth's interaction with the witches different from when he first met them? Why has his attitude changed? Use textual evidence to support your idea.	How are the witches' prophecies similar / different to modern day horoscopes? Do you think Macbeth would be interested in his horoscope if he lived today? Why/why not? Be specific.	Illustrate and label (using Shakespeare's words) at least TEN things the witches add to their bubbling cauldron. Be as detailed as possible and don't forget the cauldron!
Macduff	How does Macduff betray his wife and child?	Why does Lady Macduff tell her son that his father is dead, though the boy heard her discussion with Ross?	Macduff's son tries to defend his father's reputation against the criticisms from Lady Macduff and the murderer - even though it costs him his life. Is this loyalty misplaced? Why or why not? Do you ever defend family members even though you know they are wrong? Explain.	In scene 3 (after he learns of his family's murder), Macduff faces two distinct conflicts... Man vs. Man & Man vs. Self In a collage, creatively represent these external and internal conflicts. Write a brief explanation (4-6 sentences) of your art.

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Act V

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	Fact-Based	Interpretive	Beyond	Creative <small>(in color and on a separate page)</small>
Macbeth	Who does Macbeth kill in scene seven? What affect does this have on Macbeth's attitude?	Why isn't Macbeth distressed by the news of his wife's death?	Macbeth is a villain, but some argue he is also a tragic hero. Do you agree? Why or why not? Hint: look to page 321 for characteristics of a tragic hero.	So much has happened to Macbeth in just one day. Your job is to design the front page of a newspaper that contains the following things... 1. A creative newspaper name 2. A short news story describing the action in Act V 3. Attention grabbing headline 4. An appropriate illustration for the front page story. 5. Two smaller stories that are "continued" on another page
Lady Macbeth	According to the doctor, Lady Macbeth is suffering from what?	In what way have Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seemed to swap sensibilities? Explain.	Why does Lady Macbeth need a light with her at all times? Do you have an object that you always have with you? Why do you carry this item?	Create a comic strip that shows Lady Macbeth's famous sleepwalking scene. Be sure to use colorful details (like costuming, lighting, etc) and quotes to add life to your comic!
Theme, Symbol & Metaphor	<i>Theme:</i> superstition controls human behavior. How do the apparitions' three predictions in Act 4 come <u>true</u> in Act 5?	<i>Theme:</i> blind ambition destroys. How has Macbeth's ambition made him "blind"? Be specific.	<i>Metaphor</i> Look to Macbeth's observations of life's value (5.5.17-28). How does Macbeth feel about life? Be specific! What has made him feel this way? Do you agree with his metaphor(s) for life? Why or why not?	<i>Symbol:</i> Hands or Clothing In a collage, a painting, a sculpture (or other artistic medium) creatively represent ONE of the symbols above. Be sure to decide what the object is symbolic of! Feel free to look back to Act V (and/or the entire play) for inspiration.