

“Do Now” Work

4th December

How is the theme of guilt presented in 'Macbeth'?
Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Task: Read the following information about guilt in 'Macbeth'.

One of Shakespeare's reasons for writing the play was to illustrate the terrible consequences of murdering a king. The play was first performed in 1605, the year of the Gunpowder Plot, and this theme would be very politically acceptable to an audience composed of members of James I's court. Shakespeare shows the murderers of a king tormented by their own guilt and driven to their doom.

In Silence Please

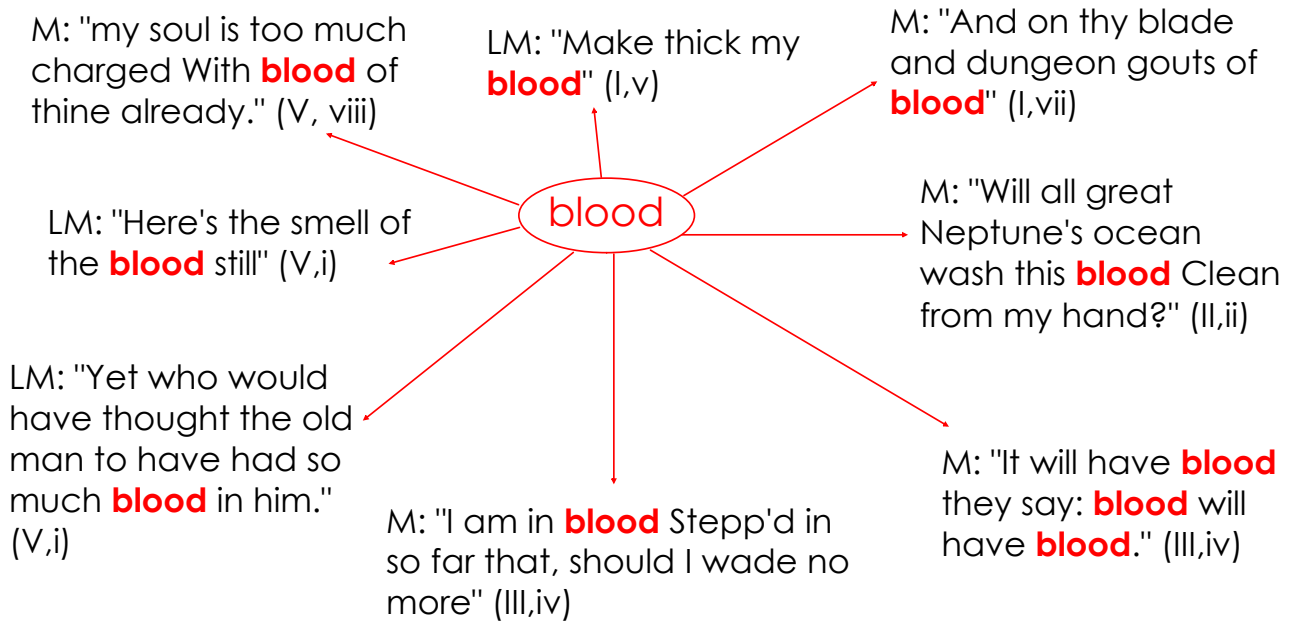
 **BOURNVILLE**
SCHOOL

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How is the theme of guilt presented in 'Macbeth'?

Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Blood is a **recurring symbol** in 'Macbeth'; it represents guilt.



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How is the theme of guilt presented in 'Macbeth'?
Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Sleep is also a **recurring symbol** in 'Macbeth'; it represents a guilty conscience.

Doctor: "A great perturbation in nature, to receive at once the benefit of **sleep**, and do the effects of watching!" (V,i)

M: "Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse The curtain'd **sleep**" (II,i)

M: "'**Sleep** no more!' to all the house: 'Glamis hath murder'd **sleep**, and therefore Cawdor Shall **sleep** no more; Macbeth shall **sleep** no more.'" (II,ii)

LM: "You lack the season of all natures, **sleep**." (III,ii)

M: "**sleep** In the affliction of these terrible dreams That shake us nightly" (III,ii)

sleep

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Macbeth and Lady Macbeth both have visions. These visions are a symbol of their guilty consciences.



LM: "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" (V,i)

visions

M: "Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand?" (II,i)



M: "when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end; but now they rise again," (III,iv)



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How is the theme of guilt presented in 'Macbeth'?

Be able to identify relevant quotations and explore the effect on the audience.

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's guilt is also linked to hell and the sin they have committed.

