| ACT | PLOT |
|---|---|
| Act 1 | M and Banquo meet witches, Cawdor executed, Lady Macbeth reads letter, taunts Macbeth, Duncan arrives. |
| Act 2 | Macbeth kills Duncan, Malcolm flees, Macbeth crowned |
| Act 3 | Banquo suspects Macbeth, murder of Banquo, Fleance escapes, Macbeth haunted by Banquo's ghost at a banquet |
| Act 4 | Witches show M future kings – sons of Banquo, Macduff's family murdered, Malcolm says he is dishonest to test Macduff's loyalty |
| Act 5 | Lady Macbeth sleepwalks, dies, Macduff kills Macbeth, Malcolm restored as King |

## DRAMATIC/ STYLISTIC DEVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| **Soliloquy** | One character speaking to audience; M uses to make audience complicit |
| **Dramatic irony** | Audience knows more than characters; audience knows D will die |
| **Hamartia** | Tragic flaw; M's could be easily influenced/ambition |
| **Hubris** | Pride; M could be said to have this or Lady M |
| **Catharsis** | Purgation of pity and fear; happens at the end |
| **Anagnorisis** | Recognition or the tragedy to come |
| **Peripetieia** | Sudden reversal of fortune |
| **Rhyme** | Used by the witches to create chant like, supernatural atmosphere |

## CHARACTERS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Macbeth** | Eponymous protagonist, ambitious and ruthless |
| **Lady Macbeth** | Defies expectations, strong and ambitious, but goes mad |
| **Witches** | Supernatural beings, prophesy, could represent conscience |
| **Banquo** | M's friend, sons prophesied to rule, killed and returns as ghost |
| **Duncan** | Good king, praises M at start, murdered in Act 2 |
| **Macduff** | Wife and children killed; kill M; born by caesarian |
| **Malcolm** | Heir to throne, good man, finally crowned |
| **Fleance** | Banquo's son, represent innocence and justice |

## GOTHIC LINKS/THEMES

**Madness**- Lady M and M driven to madness

**Transgression**- Against natural order/ divine right of kings/ sexuality

**Supernatural**- Witches; ghost; hallucinations

**Setting-** Darkness; castle; set in the past

**Violence and blood**- Starts with battle; Cawdor's execution; King's & Banquo's murders; final battle

**Desrie**- Unnatural desires

**Exploitation**- Witches exploit Macbeth and trick him

**Fear**- Constant uncertainty and risk

**Inevitability**- Doomed from the start; tragic?

**Great Chain of Being-** The natural order of being

## KEY QUOTES

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Appearance/reality*** | Witches: Fair is foul and foul is fair (1.1) |
| ***M plots his crime*** | Macbeth: Stars, hide your fires/Let not light see my black and deep desires (1.4) |
| ***Unnatural*** | Lady M: Come, you spirits… Unsex me here (1.5) |
| ***Hallucination*** | Macbeth: Is this a dagger I see before me? (2.1) |
| ***Lady M is braver*** | Lady M: My hands are of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white (2.2) |
| ***Paranoid*** | Macbeth: To be thus is nothing but to be safely thus (3.1) |
| ***Guilt*** | Macbeth: Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife (3.2) |
| ***M hides info*** | Macbeth: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck (3.2) |
| ***Cyclical*** | Macbeth: Blood will have blood (3.4) |
| ***Tragic hero*** | Malcolm: This tyrant whose sole name blisters our tongue was once thought honest (4.3) |
| ***Guilt/anxiety*** | Lady M: All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand (5.1) |
| ***Existential crisis*** | Macbeth: Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player (5.5) |
| ***Betrayal of prophecy*** | Macbeth: I bear a charmed life (5.8) |

## Vocab

- Subversion
- Ambition
- Jacobean
- Tyranny
- Kingship
- Hubris
- Catharsis
- Desire
- Exploit
- Transgress
- Caesarean
- Inevitability
- Duplicity
- Nobility
- Formality
- Humanity
- Natural order
- Fragility
- Guilt
- Remorse
- Status quo
- Exploit/ exploitation
- Existential