


Day 1: "Macbeth", Act I Scene 5

Begin lesson

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	Teaching notes
	Click the "Begin lesson" button to view this lesson. Teaching notes for each slide will appear in this box.

Before the Lesson

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Before the Lesson	Teaching notes


Anchor Text

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<p style="text-align: center;">Macbeth, Act I, Scene 5 By William Shakespeare Published in 1623</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Enter Macbeth's Wife, alone, with a letter.</i></p> <p>LADY MACBETH <i>[Reads.]</i></p> <p>1 "They met me in the day of success; and I have 2 learned by the perfect'st report, they have more in 3 them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire 4 to question them further, they made themselves air, 5 into which they vanished. Whilst I stood rapt in 6 the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who 7 all hailed me "Thane of Cawdor"; by which title, 8 before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred 9 me to the coming on of time, with "Hail, king that 10 shalt be!" This have I thought good to deliver 11 thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou 12 mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being 13 ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it 14 to thy heart, and farewell!"</p> <p>15 Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be 16 What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature; 17 It is too full o' the milk of human kindness 18 To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great; 19 Art not without ambition, but without</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching notes</p> <p>Download and print copies of the anchor text for each student.</p>
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Student Notes Sheet

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<p style="text-align: center;"> LearnZillion</p> <p>Name: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Student notes for: Macbeth, Act I Scene 5</p> <p>Day: 1</p> <p>1. In Macbeth's letter, he addresses Lady Macbeth as his "dearest partner in greatness". What does this phrase show about Macbeth?</p> <p>2. Lady Macbeth also says to Macbeth, "You face, my Thane, is a book where men may read strange matters". What does this phrase mean?</p> <p>3. Often there is a character's traits will be revealed through a conversation from another character. Reread Lady Macbeth's lines, "You face, my Thane, is a book where men may read strange matters." To catch the nearest way." What is Lady Macbeth saying about the character of Macbeth?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This guided notes sheet provides students with the text-dependent questions associated with this lesson, and relevant graphic organizers. You may modify these sheets as needed. ■ During class, students can use these sheets to record their responses, notes, or ideas. Use the back to <p>record responses to the focus question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Following class, collect student notes to use as a formative assessment.
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Getting Started

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Getting Started

Teaching notes

Introduction 1 of 2

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Macbeth, Act I, Scene 5

By William Shakespeare
Published in 1623

Enter Macbeth's Wife, alone, with a letter.

LADY MACBETH (reads)
 1 They met me in the day of success; and I have
 2 learned by the perfect'st report, they have more in
 3 them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire
 4 to question them further, they made themselves air,
 5 into which they vanished. Whilst I stood rapt in
 6 the wonder of it, came missives from the King, who
 7 all-hailed me 'Thane of Cawdor'; by which title,
 8 before, these weird sisters saluted me; and reversed
 9 me to the coming on of time, with 'Hail, king that
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 11 thee, my dearest partner of greatness; that thou
 12 mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being
 13 ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it
 14 to thy heart, and farewell.
 15 Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
 16 What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature;
 17 It is too full of the milk of human kindness
 18 To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great;
 19 Art not without ambition, but without
 20 The illness should attend it: What thou wouldst highly;
 21 That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
 22 And yet wouldst wrongly win; thou dost have great Glamis,
 23 That which cries 'Thou shalt do if thou have it';
 24 And that which rather thou dost fear to do

Macbeth, Act I scene 5
William Shakespeare

Teaching notes

Pacing: 10 minutes

Notes:

- Remind students that this week, they are focusing on a close reading of Macbeth, Act I scene 5. This means going back and rereading the story, answering questions based on evidence in the text.
- Make sure all students have a copy of Act I scene 5 and the student notes sheet.
- Read Act I scene 5 aloud, allowing students to assume the various roles (Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Messenger). Students may act out the various roles as well.

Introduction 2 of 2

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LearnZillion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student notes for Macbeth, Act I Scene 5

Day 1

1. In Macbeth's letter, he addresses Lady Macbeth as his "dearest partner in greatness". What does this phrase mean about Macbeth?

2. Lady Macbeth also says to Macbeth, "Your face, my Thane, is a book where men / May read strange matters". What does this phrase mean?

3. Often times, a character's traits will be revealed through a commentary from another character. Reread Lady Macbeth's line, "O! See how he resembles / In his look and the wild of human likeness / To catch the nearest vision" (What is Lady Macbeth saying about the appearance of Macbeth?)

4. What is Lady Macbeth saying about herself in lines 41-42?

As we explore the text we will be asking and answering questions.

We will find and keep track of evidence from the text to support our ideas about each question.

Teaching notes

Pacing: 10 minutes

Notes:

- Remind students that this week, they are focusing on a close reading of Macbeth, Act I scene 5. This means going back and rereading the story, answering questions based on evidence in the text.

- Make sure all students have a copy of Act I scene 5 and the student notes sheet.
- Read Act I scene 5 aloud, allowing students to assume the various roles (Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Messenger). Students may act out the various roles as well.

Exploring the Text

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Exploring the Text

Teaching notes

Supporting Question 1

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In Macbeth's letter, he addresses Lady Macbeth as his "dearest partner in greatness". What does this phrase show about Macbeth?

Teaching notes

Pacing: 2-3 minutes

Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4

Purpose: The purpose of this question is to allow students to decipher Shakespearean language, and to begin to build knowledge of characterization of complex

characters through short excerpts of dialogue. In this example, students will be identifying how Macbeth is not a strong leader, since he identifies Lady Macbeth as his equal.

Answer: Macbeth refers to Lady Macbeth as his "dearest partner in greatness" to show that he feels as if she is his equal, and he relies on Lady Macbeth to help him in his quest to be king.

Look for students....

- Recognizing that "dearest partner" shows equality and respect.
- Recognizing that "greatness" refers to his desire to rule.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What does the phrase, 'dearest partner' imply?"
- Ask, "What does the word 'greatness' refer to?"

Additional Notes:

- Use this question as an opportunity to discuss the meaning of the word, "greatness". Ask, "What makes a person 'great'?", or "How is 'greatness' defined?"

Supporting Question 2

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Lady Macbeth also says to Macbeth, "Your face, my Thane, is a book where men / may read strange matters". What does this phrase mean?

Teaching notes

Pacing: 2-3 minutes

Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4

Purpose: The purpose of this question is to allow students the opportunity to build on the previous knowledge of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, by interpreting how words

and phrases affect the meaning of a text. This question also gives students insight into how Lady Macbeth accuses her husband of wearing his emotions on his sleeve. This question will also help students answer question 4, since students must have knowledge of how Lady Macbeth sees her husband in order to identify how that influences Lady Macbeth's views of herself.

Answer: Lady Macbeth's line, "Your face, my Thane, is a book where men / may read strange matters" means that Macbeth's emotions are not easily hidden. Lady Macbeth compares Macbeth's face to a book, showing how easily other people may access his feelings, emotions, and true desires.

Look for students....

- Recognizing the metaphor of the book to show how Macbeth cannot hide his emotions.
- Analyzing the metaphor to understand that "strange matters" can refer to emotions, desires, and motivations.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What figurative element do you notice here?"
- Ask, "What can you infer from the metaphor?"
- Ask, "What does the phrase, "strange matters" refer to?"

Supporting Question 3

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Often times, a character's traits will be revealed through commentary from another character. Reread Lady Macbeth's lines, "Yet I do fear thy nature;/It is too full o' the milk of human kindness/To catch the nearest way." What is Lady Macbeth saying about the character of Macbeth?

Teaching notes

Pacing: 2-3 minutes

Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4

Purpose: The purpose of this question is to allow students to build on question 2. Not only is this excerpt a bit longer in line length, it also requires more interpretation skills

than the previous question. The answer is not as straightforward and easy to decipher (as in question 2), but students can activate prior knowledge of Lady Macbeth's view of her husband in order to understand how she sees herself.

Answer: Lady Macbeth's lines reveal that Macbeth is kind, and easily manipulated by his own emotions. Lady Macbeth compares his nature as being full of "the milk of human kindness", employing the word "milk" to suggest that this kindness is a feminine quality. Because he is too kind and emotional, she states that he cannot "catch the nearest way", implying that he will not be able to rule because of his kindhearted nature.

Look for students....

- Recognizing that "to catch the nearest way" refers to his ability to rule.
- Analyzing the word "milk", which implies that kindness is a feminine quality.
- Noting "I do fear thy nature" signals that she is about to say something negative about Macbeth.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says, "come to my woman's breasts/and take my milk for gall"?"
- Ask, "What does the phrase, "Yet I do fear thy nature" reveal about how Lady Macbeth feels about her husband's traits?"

Additional Notes: You might not want to focus too much on the word, "yet". That word is tied to another lesson, in which students will analyze Lady Macbeth's contrasting attitude and look at the lines prior to that phrase.

Supporting Question 4

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What is Lady Macbeth saying about herself in lines 41-48?

Teaching notes

Pacing: 5-7 minutes

Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4

Purpose: The purpose of this question is to give students an opportunity to tackle a longer piece of text, and to draw inferences relating to the complex

characterization of Lady Macbeth based on what is said in the text. Students will need to understand how Lady Macbeth views herself in order to answer the day's TDQ.

Answer: Lady Macbeth identifies herself as a woman with the capacity for cruelty and power. For example, she states, "fill me from the crown to the toe top-full/of direst cruelty, and make thick my blood" to show her desire for cruelty. She also asks for more masculine traits, in order to gain power. For example, she says "stop up the access and passage to remorse", which means that she is asking for all of her emotions to be taken away. By using the word "milk" in line 48, she is asking for her feminine traits to be taken away, asking that her milk be taken for "gall" which, in this context, refers to hardness and cruelty.

Look for students....

- Noticing the lines, "fill me...of direst cruelty", "make thick my blood", "stop up the access and passage to remorse", and "take my milk for gall" as lines that reveal her character.
- Analyzing the multiple meanings of the word, "gall" in line 48.
- Analyzing the use of the word "milk" as a feminine word, noting the rejection of female qualities by Lady Macbeth.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Which words or phrases show something about Lady Macbeth's character?
- What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says "stop up the access and passage to remorse"?
- What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says "make thick my blood"?
- What does the word "gall" mean in line 48?

Focus Question

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<h2>Focus Question</h2>	Teaching notes

Focus Question

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How does Shakespeare describe the characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?

Teaching notes

Pacing: 10-15 minutes

Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.4

Purpose: The purpose of this question is to first, expose students to the language of Shakespeare through the interpretation of short excerpts of dialogue and, eventually,

to larger sections of text. Through this interpretation, students will gain knowledge of character traits for both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Understanding these traits is important because it serves as the foundation upon which these complex characters begin to develop and change throughout the text. These complexities will be explored in upcoming lessons.

Answer: Macbeth's letter portrays him as a gentle, submissive man. This is especially noted in the lines, "This I have thought good to deliver / thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou / mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being / ignorant of what greatness is promised thee." In these lines, Macbeth is portrayed as a more submissive man (a feminine quality), especially when referring to Lady Macbeth as his "partner of greatness."

Lady Macbeth, on the other hand, is described as a strong-willed woman who has the capacity for cruelty. For example, she states, "make thick my blood", and "take my milk for gall". These examples show her cruel, unforgiving nature, which is heavily contrasted with Macbeth's gentle character. Therefore, Lady Macbeth exhibits more masculine traits, while Macbeth's traits are more feminine.

Look for students....

- Contrasting Lady Macbeth's cruel, unforgiving nature with Macbeth's gentle character.
- Using evidence from the supporting questions to answer this question.
- Noting lines like, "make thick my blood", "take my milk for gall", and "stop up the access and passage to remorse" that show Lady Macbeth's character traits.
- Identifying that Macbeth's traits are more feminine, while Lady Macbeth's traits are more masculine.

Additional Notes:

- Remind students to return to their answers to the supporting questions in order to answer this question effectively. Students can also refer back to the evidence gathered and analyzed from the supporting questions in order to answer the focus question.
- Remind students that they will need to keep the answers to the focus question (once graded and returned) for the upcoming lessons; all of these questions lead up to the culminating writing task on day 5.


After the Lesson

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<h1>After the Lesson</h1>	<h3>Teaching notes</h3>

Comprehension Skill Video

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<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 4px;">Core Lesson</div> <div style="color: #007bff; font-weight: bold;">Reread the text, highlighting instances in which a character is described.</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; font-size: 0.8em;"> <p>LADY MACBETH</p> <p>O, never Shall sun that morrow see! Your face, my thame, is as a book where May read strange matters. To beguile Look like the time; bear welcome in Your hand, your tongue: look like the infant But be the serpent under't. He that Must be provided for: and you shall This night's great business into my day Which shall to all our sights and days to Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.</p> </div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 50%; left: 50%; transform: translate(-50%, -50%); font-size: 4em; color: #ff9900; opacity: 0.5;">▶</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 10%; left: 30%; border: 2px solid #ff9900; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; color: #ff9900; font-size: 0.8em;"> Does Lady Macbeth describe herself or another character? </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Visit https://haywood.lzill.co/r/17044</p> </div> </div>	<h3>Teaching notes</h3>