

MACBETH! MACBETH! MACBETH!
BEWARE MACDUFF;
BEWARE THE THANE OF FIFE.
BE BLOODY, laugh to
BOLD SCORN
DISMISS ME. ENOUGH. *The power*
AND RESOLUTE; *of man,*
for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.
BE LION-METTLED
PROUD; AND TAKE NO CARE
WHO CHAFES, WHO FRETS, OR WHERE CONSPIRERS ARE:
MACBETH
never vanquish'd be until GREAT
BIRNHAM WOOD
to high **DUNSINANE HILL**
SHALL COME AGAINST HIM

A03: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

Throughout this booklet, you will find a series of activities designed to help you learn about the **social and historical context** of 'Macbeth'. Remember, you must comment on the context of the play as part of **ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 3** in your literature exam. There is lots to comment on, so make sure you refer back to this booklet when revising.

ACTIVITY ONE: The plot

Read and summarise

Read the plot of 'Macbeth' and summarise what you have learned into four bullet points at the end of each section.

READ

The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of witches and then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King Duncan hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and Banquo, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland, led by the rebel Macdonwald, and one from Norway. Following their pitched battle with these enemy forces, Macbeth and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be made thane (a rank of Scottish nobility) of Cawdor and eventually King of Scotland. They also prophesy that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will beget a line of Scottish kings, although Banquo will never be king himself. The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their prophecies sceptically until some of King Duncan's men come to thank the two generals for their victories in battle and to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named thane of Cawdor. The previous thane betrayed Scotland by fighting for the Norwegians and Duncan has condemned him to death. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the remainder of the witches' prophecy—that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits with King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth's castle, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her all that has happened.

SUMMARISE

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READ

Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to murder Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections and persuades him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenceless, as they will remember nothing. While Duncan is asleep, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts

and a number of supernatural portents, including a vision of a bloody dagger. When Duncan's death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth kills the chamberlains—ostensibly out of rage at their crime—and easily assumes the kingship. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain flee to England and Ireland, respectively, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires their demise as well.

SUMMARISE

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READ

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's heirs will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who escapes into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure. At the feast that night, Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. Lady Macbeth tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship incites increasing resistance from his nobles and subjects. Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches in their cavern. There, they show him a sequence of demons and spirits who present him with further prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's accession to the throne; he is incapable of being harmed by any man born of woman; and he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that Lady Macduff and her children be murdered.

SUMMARISE

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READ

When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows revenge. Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to Scotland to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical

and murderous behaviour. Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of sleepwalking in which she bemoans what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has killed herself, causing him to sink into a deep and pessimistic despair. Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his invincibility. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' prophecy.

In the battle, Macbeth hews violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not "of woman born" but was instead "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (what we now call birth by caesarean section). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him. Malcolm, now the King of Scotland, declares his benevolent intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned at Scone.

SUMMARISE

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ACTIVITY TWO: Low Stakes Quiz

Answer the multiple choice questions.

Who is travelling with Macbeth when he first encounters the three sisters?

- a) Macduff
- b) Lennox
- c) Banquo
- d) Duncan

What is Macbeth Thane of at the start of the play?

- e) Scotland
- f) Glamis
- g) Cawdor
- h) Fife

What prophecy do the sisters give Banquo in Act 1?

- a) That he will be made Thane of Cawdor
- b) That his son will be made Thane of Cawdor
- c) That his sons will be made princes
- d) That his sons will be made kings

What 'sign' convinces Macbeth to kill Duncan?

- a) An apparition of one of the Weird Sisters
- b) A nightmare about one of the Weird Sisters
- c) An apparition of a floating dagger
- d) The ghost of his dead father visits him

What does Macbeth accidentally take with him after murdering the king?

- a) The murder weapons
- b) The king's crown
- c) The bible
- d) The King's bloody pillow

Which characters run away shortly after Duncan's death?

- a) Banquo and Fleance
- b) Macbeth and Lady Macbeth
- c) Malcolm and Donalbain
- d) Macduff and his family

What does Macbeth hire men to do?

- a) Protect him from assassins
- b) Kill Macduff and his family
- c) Find the witches so he can talk to them again
- d) Kill Banquo and his son

When he sees them the second time, what four things do the witches show Macbeth?

- a) A head, a blood child, a crown and a serpent
- b) An armed child, a bloody child, a crowned child with a tree in his hand, eight kings followed by Banquo's ghost with a mirror
- c) Armed head, visions, crowned child with a tree in his hand and a battlefield
- d) An armed head, a bloody child, a crowned child with a tree in his hand, eight kings followed by Banquo's ghost with a mirror

Why does Macbeth have Macduff's family and servants killed?

- a) Macduff is not loyal and Macbeth wants to kill his family as they could kill him
- b) Macduff is not loyal to Macbeth, and Macbeth is angry
- c) Macduff is angry with Macbeth and he is afraid
- d) Macduff is not loyal and Macbeth is happy

Towards the end of the play, which words best describe Lady Macbeth's behaviour in this Act?

- a) Confident, egotistical and boastful
- b) Ambitious, power-driven and determined
- c) Psychotic, unstable and melodramatic
- d) Obsessive, paranoid and unhinged

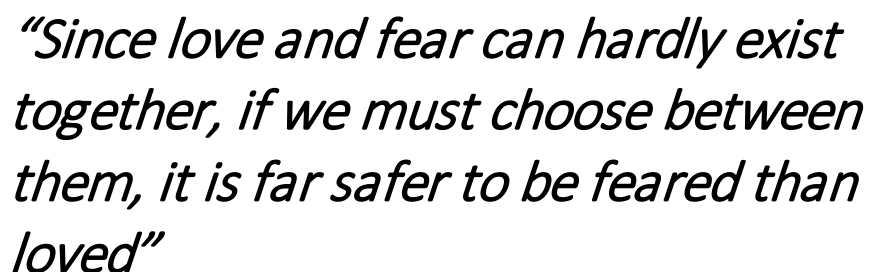
Macbeth does not fear death at the hands of the rebels because he has...

- a) Extensive battle experience
- b) Faith in the witches' prophecies
- c) Little reason to go on living
- d) No awareness of the rebels' strength

In the last scene, Macbeth fights to the death because he...

- a) is given no other choice
- b) thinks that Macduff can be easily defeated
- c) does not believe Macduff's claims about his birth
- d) prefers an honourable defeat to a humiliating surrender

Read the information and complete the tasks



Niccolo Machiavelli

The Prince

TASK: What do you think the cover of 'The Prince' by Machiavelli is telling us about power? What do you think this quotation means? Explain your ideas, referring to the quotation.

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Machiavellianism

Read the information and complete the tasks

Ma|chia|vell|ian

[.makɪəˈvɛɪliən] 🔊

ADJECTIVE

1. cunning, scheming, and unscrupulous, especially in politics.
"a whole range of outrageous Machiavellian manoeuvres"
synonyms: **devious** · **cunning** · **crafty** · **artful** · **wily** · **sly** · **scheming**

NOUN

1. a person who schemes in a Machiavellian way.
synonyms: **conspirator** · **co-conspirator** · **conspirer** · **plotter** ·



NOTE: The types of political behaviour which are discussed with approval by Machiavelli in *The Prince* were thought of as shocking by contemporaries, and its immorality is still a subject of serious discussion.

Read the extract from 'The Prince' and define the words in bold.

Every prince may desire to be thought **clement**. But it was Cesare Borgia's cruelty which brought peace and unity to the Romagna. A prince who keeps his **subjects** united and loyal, ought not to mind the **reproach** of cruelty; for too much **mercy** will allow disorder to injure the whole people, whilst a few executions offend only individuals.

Is it better to be loved or feared? One might wish to be both, but they are not met in the same person. Because this is to be **asserted** in general of men, that they are ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, **covetous**, and as long as you succeed they are yours entirely. They will offer you their blood, property, life, and children when the need is far distant; but when it approaches they turn against you. The prince who relies on their promises is ruined; because friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by greatness or nobility of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon. Men will readily offend a beloved, for love is preserved by the link of obligation which men will break at every opportunity for their advantage; but fear preserves you by a dread of punishment which never fails.

TASK ONE: DEFINE IT		TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT	
Use a dictionary to define the highlighted words.		Summarise Machiavelli's argument in fifty words or fewer.	
TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT		TASK FOUR: CONSIDER IT	
Transform Machiavelli's argument into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.		Explain how Machiavelli's argument relates to Macbeth's actions.	

Read the extract from 'The Prince' and define the words in bold.

Many men believe the affairs of the world are governed by fortune and God, so that men cannot direct them. Fortune may direct one-half of our actions, but she still leaves us to direct the other half. She may be like the raging flood, which sweeps away trees and buildings. But that does not mean that, when the waters settle, men cannot make barriers against such misfortune.

A man may pursue glory and riches by caution, another with **haste**, one by force, another by skill, and yet still **attain** their goal. It is not so much the method, but how well they **conform** to the spirit of the times. It is the man who cannot change from his nature or his **accustomed** ways, who is lost. The cautious man who does not know when it is time to turn adventurous is ruined.

Fortune is changeful, yet mankind **steadfast** in their ways, success comes when the two are in agreement. For my part I consider that it is better to be adventurous than cautious, because fortune is a woman, and if you wish to control her it is necessary to beat and ill-use her; and she allows herself to be mastered by the adventurous. She is, therefore, always, woman-like, a lover of young men, because they are less cautious, more violent, and with more **audacity** command her.

TASK ONE: DEFINE IT

Use a dictionary to define the highlighted words.

TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT

Summarise Machiavelli's argument in fifty words or fewer.

TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT

Transform Machiavelli's argument into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.

TASK FOUR: CONSIDER IT

Explain how Machiavelli's argument relates to Macbeth's actions.

ACTIVITY FOUR: Witchcraft in the time of Shakespeare

Read the information and complete the tasks

“Fair is foul and foul is fair”

Throughout the ages and in all countries there have been people who have believed in witches and witchcraft. The people of Shakespeare’s day were no different. Shakespeare drew on the popular traditions of his time and used them for his own purposes. In ‘Macbeth’ he used popular beliefs about witches and witchcraft.

Witches were associated with the dark and death. In Christian countries they were thought to be the agents of Satan going about their business at night, and they were believed to gather near graves to conduct their evil rites and make poisons.

When Shakespeare wrote Macbeth, witchcraft was a topic of considerable interest. The new king of England, James I, had written a book called Demonology which was published in 1597. called Demonology – a study of witchcraft and its evils. James I tightened up laws against witchcraft in 1604, passing a **statute** where anyone exercising witchcraft ‘shall suffer pains of death as a **felon** or felons, and shall lose the privilege and benefit of **clergy** and **sanctuary**.’ James I was convinced that a group of witches had raised a storm and tried to drown him and, as a result, considered the works of the devil.

Evidence of a relationship with evil spirits **condemned** a suspect to death by hanging, burning or drowning. Whether Shakespeare himself believed in witches does not matter. He used them for his play, and many of his audience would have believed in them as thoroughly evil servants of the devil. For the people of Shakespeare’s time, the devil was very real who they believed spent his time trying to trap men and women into his power. Note that very early in the play Banquo realises this and says as much to Macbeth.

Witches were supposed to be capable of doing all the things that the three weird sisters are said to perform in Macbeth. It was believed that they could see into the future; that they could create storms, hail, thunder and lightning; that they were able to sink ships; dry up springs; stop the sun and change night into day and day into night. They could also cause the death of their enemies, and could make themselves invisible. In order to work their charms they would open graves and steal parts of the bodies to make potions. For this purpose the bodies of unbaptised babies were especially prized. And witches could call up the dead. For a king like Macbeth to visit and have dealings with witches would have seemed both a crime and a sin.

Macbeth is easily captured by their power and by their **prophecies**. But note that they never tell him a lie. However, they do allow him to deceive himself. The devil does not lie...but leads us into temptation.

Source: www.mrsslibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/.../Macbeth-Witches-and-Witchcraft-.docx and @fod3

TASK ONE: LEARN IT		TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT	
List four things you learn about witches' abilities		Transform the information on witchcraft into three images and label with a quotation.	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
TASK THREE: DEFINE IT		TASK FOUR: CONDENSE IT	
Look at the highlighted words and write their definitions.		Summarise the information in fifty words or fewer.	

Read the extract from 'Witch Child' by Celia Rees and complete the question.

I am a witch. Or so some would call me. 'Spawn of the Devil', 'Witch child', they hiss in the street, although I know neither father or mother. I know only my grandmother, Eliza Nuttall; Mother Nuttall to her neighbours. She brought me up from a baby. If she knew who my parents are, she has not told me.

We live in a small cottage on the very edge of the forest, Grandmother, me and her cat and my rabbit. Lived. Live there no more.



They took her away then.

They decided to float her. They had plenty of evidence against her, you see. Plenty. All week folk had been coming to them with accusations. How she had overlooked them, bringing sickness to their livestock and families; how she had used magic, sticking pins in wax figures to bring on affliction; how she transformed herself and roamed the country for miles around as a great hare, how she did this by the use of ointment made from melted corpse fat. They questioned me. Demanding, 'Is this so?' She slept in the bed next to me every night. How do I know where she went when sleep took her?

It was all lies. Nonsense and lies.

These people accusing her. They were our friends, our neighbours. They had gone to her, pleading with her for help with beasts and children, sick or injured, a wife nearing her time. For she had the skill, in herbs, potions, in her hands, but the power came from in her, not from the Devil. The people trusted her, or they had until now, they had wanted her presence. Birth or death, my grandmother was asked to be there to assist in the passage from one world to the next.

They were all there for the swimming, standing both sides of the river, lining the bridge, staring down at the place, a wide pool where the water shows black and deep. The men in tall hats dragged my grandmother from the stinking hole where they had been keeping her. They cross bound her, tying her right toe to her left thumb, and vice versa, making sure the cords were thin and taut. Then they threw her in. The crowd watched in silence, the only sound the shuffle of many feet edging forwards to see what she would do.



‘She floats!’

The chant started with just one person remarking, in a quiet voice almost of wonder, then it spread from one to another, until all were shouting with one voice, like some monstrous howling thing. To float was a sure proof of guilt. They hooked her, pulling her back to shore like a bundle of old washing. They did not want her drowning, because that would deprive the people of a hanging.

How does the writer use language to present the treatment of witches?

You could include the writer’s choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms

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ACTIVITY SIX: Summarise your learning

Use the space below to summarise what you have learned so far.
You may decide how to present this summary.

ACTIVITY SEVEN: The Great Chain of Being

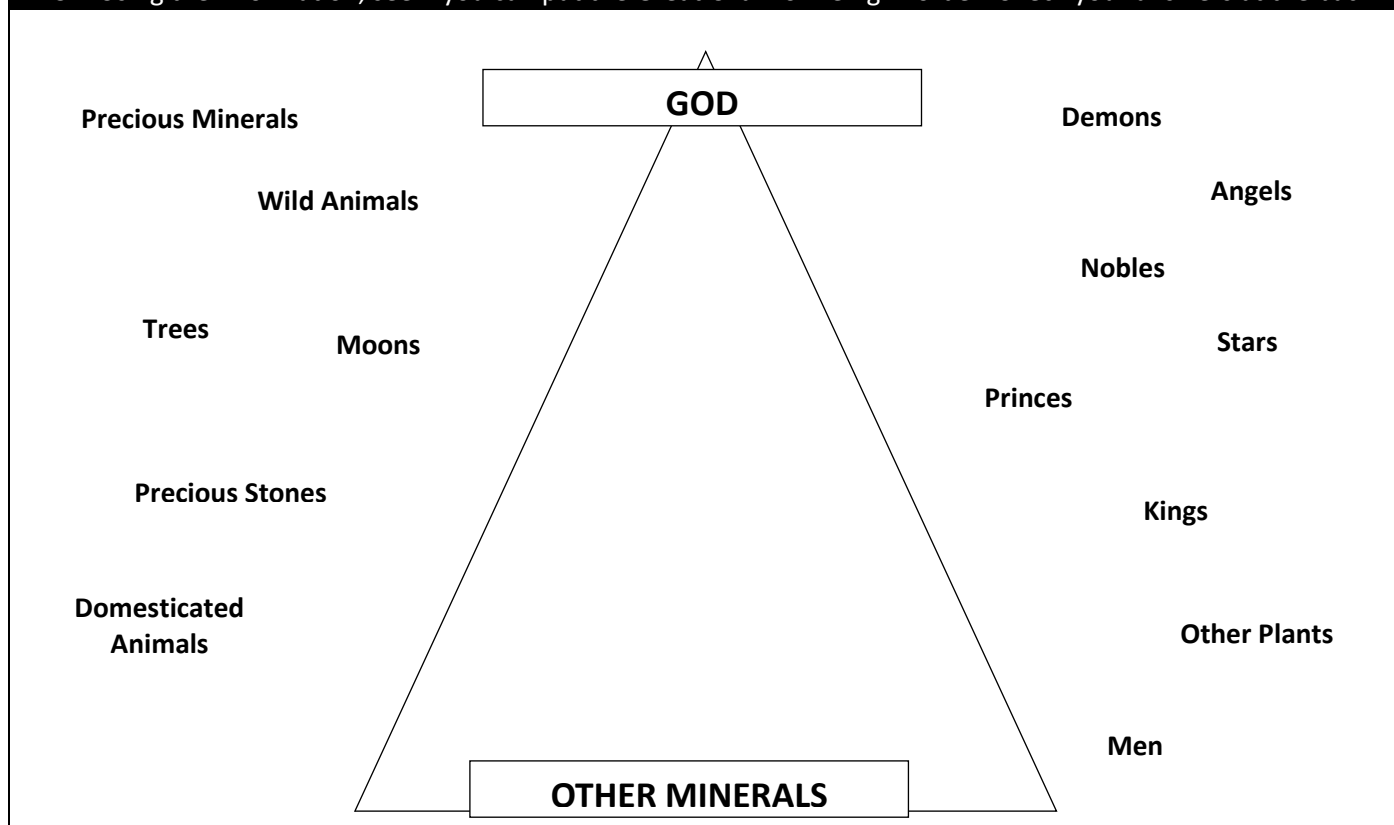
Read the information and complete the tasks.

Elizabethans believed that God set out an order for everything in the universe. This was known as the Great Chain of Being. On Earth, God created a social order for everybody and chose where you belonged. In other words, the king or queen was in charge because God put them there and they were only answerable to God (the Divine Right of Kings). This meant that disobeying the monarch was a sin, which was handy for keeping people in their place! It also led to the idea that if the wrong person was monarch everything would go wrong for a country, including whether the crops would be good, or if animals behaved as they should. The Elizabethans were very superstitious.

The Great Chain of Being includes everything from God and the angels at the top, to humans, to animals, to plants, to rocks and minerals at the bottom. It moves from beings of pure spirit at the top of the Chain to things made entirely of matter at the bottom. Humans are pretty much in the middle, being mostly mortal, or made of matter, but with a soul made of spirit. The theory started with the Greek philosophers Aristotle and Plato, but was a basic assumption of life in Elizabethan England. You were a noble, or a farmer, or a beggar, because that was the place God had ordained for you.

The Great Chain of Being is a major influence on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Macbeth disturbs the natural order of things by murdering the king and stealing the throne. This throws all of nature into uproar, including a story related by an old man that the horses in their stables went mad and ate each other, a symbol of unnatural happenings.

TASK: Using the information, see if you can put the Great Chain of Being in order. Check your answers at the back.



ACTIVITY EIGHT: Shakespeare, 'Macbeth' and the Gunpowder Plot

Read the information and complete the tasks.



It was November, 1605, and high treason was on the mind of every English subject. A small group of angry Catholics, fed up with ongoing persecution at the hands of the Protestant monarchy, hatched an elaborate plot to blow King James I and his government to smithereens. As luck would have it, a warning letter surfaced at the last minute and James ordered a search of his Palace. The most notorious conspirator, Guy Fawkes, was discovered in the cellar, match in hand, ready to

ignite twenty barrels of gunpowder "all at one thunderclap."

To say that Shakespeare would have been familiar with the conspirators is an understatement. These traitors of the realm had some deep connections to Shakespeare and his family. Shakespeare's father, John (undoubtedly a covert Catholic) was friends with William Catesby, the father of the head conspirator, Robert Catesby. John Shakespeare and William Catesby shared illegal Catholic writings that eventually wound up in the attic of John's home in Stratford. Moreover, the Mermaid Tavern in London, frequented by Shakespeare and owned by his closest friend and confidant, was a preferred meeting spot of the turncoats as they schemed to obliterate the Protestants once and for all.

Needless to say, Shakespeare, like his creation Macbeth, was probably tormented by "saucy doubts and fears", waiting to see if he would be the next poor soul taken to the Tower. Theory has it that it is no coincidence Shakespeare decided then to write his only play focused on Scotland. The Bard was about to use all his skills as a great playwright to set the record straight with his sovereign, James I, the son of Mary, Queen of Scots.



While the conspirators suffered the ultimate punishment of being disembowelled and beheaded in front of the cheering masses, Shakespeare would likely have been only a few miles away, holed up in his estate in Stratford, piecing together tales about different Scottish kings from old history books. Change after change was made until the play became a perfect propaganda machine that seemed to clear Shakespeare of any suspicion. James' favourite part of Shakespeare's new take on history would be the near mythological qualities given to the

character created in his image – Macbeth’s victim, King Duncan. While the real Duncan was a war-loving Neanderthal, Shakespeare’s Duncan is a thoughtful, infallible, divinely-appointed ruler with “silver skin” and “golden blood.” Killing old Duncan is a calamity of such epic proportion that it sends the animal kingdom into a tail spin, with mice devouring falcons and horses chowing down on each other.

Many of Macbeth’s themes resonate with the attempted revolt: it’s a play about treason, the overthrow of a King, and the downfall of his murderers. Even more importantly, King James was commonly believed to be descended from Banquo the thane of Lochquhaber, the historical counterpart of Shakespeare’s Banquo, the friend who Macbeth betrays and has murdered. With this in mind the witches’ prophesy that Banquo’s ancestors will be kings takes on a new meaning: it is referring to Banquo’s ancestor James Stuart, King of Scotland and England. By extension, it has been suggested that the escape of Fleance, Banquo’s son, from Macbeth’s murder plot is designed to echo James’s own escape from the Gunpowder plot and to subtly compliment the House of Stuart as legitimate and truly-descended rulers.

A master of details, Shakespeare wove direct references to the Gunpowder plot right into *Macbeth*. To commemorate the discovery of the heinous scheme, King James had a medal created picturing a snake hiding amongst flowers. Lo and behold, we find a nod to the medal right in the play when Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it.



Even more significant is an obvious allusion to a Jesuit priest named Father Henry Garnet, who had concealed his knowledge of the conspiracy. When Father Garnet finally confessed, he insisted that his previous perjury was not really perjury because he lied for God’s sake. For this bit of spin doctoring he became known as the great “equivocator” and was promptly hanged. Sure enough, in Act 2, when Macbeth’s Porter wonders what kind of people would enter the gates of hell, he declares:

Faith, here’s an equivocator, that could swear in both the scales against either scale; who committed treason enough for God’s sake, yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in, equivocator. (3.2.9-12)

Source: <https://blog.shakespearesglobe.com/post/101835213683/the-gunpowder-plot-and-shakespeares-macbeth>, <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/gunpowderplot.html>

TASK ONE: LEARN IT		TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT	
Look at the eight statements. Highlight the four that are true.		Summarise in no more than 50 words the connections Shakespeare had to the gunpowder plot.	
1) The gunpowder plot took place in 1605. 2) Shakespeare’s father was friends with the father of the main conspirator of the plot. 3) The Mermaid Tavern was owned by Shakespeare. 4) Macbeth is a play about treason, the overthrow of a King, and the downfall of his murderers, all themes that relate to the gunpowder plot. 5) The witches prophesy that Banquo’s ancestors will die. 6) King James created a medal picturing a snake hiding amongst rocks. 7) Shakespeare compliments the House of Stuart as legitimate and truly-descended rulers in his play. 8) Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like a serpent.			
TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT			
Transform the information on witchcraft into three images and label with a quotation.			

ACTIVITY NINE: Analysing structure

Read the extract from 'Treason' by James Jackson and complete the question.

The following extract is taken from the end of a novel. This part of the novel details Guy Fawkes' actions before the gunpowder plot is foiled.

A few hours later, Fawkes checked the timepiece. It was approaching midnight. The day had contained its share of incidents, including an encounter with a roving patrol who asked questions and mounted a superficial inspection of the undercroft beneath the House of Lords. Heightened security was to be expected before tomorrow's events. The soldiers seemed bored, their searching half-hearted. They departed without discovering what lay close at hand.



Dressed in a hat and cloak and with spurs fitted to his boots, the mercenary again shuttered his lantern and hid deep within the shadows. He did not expect to be disturbed. In the hours before dawn he would set the fuse and slip away, crossing the river and finding his horse before heading for the coast. A longer route was preferable to dodging informants and

risking all in a dash to board a barque upon the Thames. Even as the King proceeded to his death, his killer would be under sail.

This was it. He shivered a little at the cold and wondered what was happening beyond the confines of his cellar. None could fault his devotion or his steadiness in the face of danger. For years he had worked to effect a miracle, and tomorrow a King was to gather with his bishops and nobles and then all would simply vanish. Praise to be God.

Out of the silence came the sound of wood splintering. Voices raked the stillness, harsh light flooding the undercroft. Fawkes pressed himself into the corner, his own understanding bitterly illuminated. They must have known, had waited and watched and left him to his own devices. It was the cruellest of fates. But he was a soldier accepting of misfortune, a holy warrior who would never submit. He thought of Catesby and his companions riding hard for the Midlands. His task now was to ensure their survival and escape.

'Your name?'

Men with muskets and drawn swords converged, their features obscured in the glare of lamps. A figure loomed in a fine doublet, wielding a rapier with an unpractised hand. The ceremonial puppet might be the first to die, mused Fawkes.

‘I am called John Johnson.’

‘Whom do you serve?’

‘My master is Sir Thomas Percy.’

‘Mine is the King.’ The man bristled with self-importance. ‘I am Sir Thomas Knevett, member of His Majesty’s Privy Chamber and Justice of Peace.’

Fawkes gestured to his surroundings. ‘Peace is what you find here.’

‘Yet you are dressed and spurred as though readied for flight.’

‘Flight?’ The mercenary feigned confusion.

‘Thomas Percy is a papist* and recusant* and known support of sedition*.’ Knevett revelled in his own performance. ‘And here you stand, his servant.’

‘I tend firewood, that is all.’

The Justice peered towards the piled monument of sacks and timber. ‘There is sufficient to warm a palace for a hundred years.’

Fawkes nodded thoughtfully. ‘My master feels the winter chill.’

‘Soon he shall endure the heat.’ The command came almost as an afterthought: ‘Seize him and search him well.’

Several of the soldiers rushed him. His reflex was to fight, and yet it ended as it was meant to, his face bloodied, his clothing torn and his hands bound fast behind his back. With a shout of triumph, the proof was methodically laid bare.

‘Matches, touchwood, slow fuses and a gold pocket watch of worth.’ Knevett took ownership of the items. ‘Unusual objects for a servant to possess.’

Fawkes remained defiant. ‘I have many duties.’

‘High treason sits among them.’

In time, they would force confession, ensure he cried out and beseeched the Lord for death. That was for another day. The hours has passed into Tuesday 5th November. A plot had been foiled and a King would continue to reign.

***Papist** – a Roman Catholic

***Recusant** – a person who refuses to submit to authority.

***Sedition** – behaviour inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.

You need to think about the **whole** of the **source**. This text is from the end of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning.
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops.
- Any other structural features that interest you.

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This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ACTIVITY TEN: The Role of Women

Read the information and complete the tasks.

Patriarchal Society

Elizabethan society was patriarchal, meaning that men were considered to be the leaders and women their inferiors. Women were regarded as "the weaker sex", not just in terms of physical strength, but emotionally too. It was believed that women always needed someone to look after them. If they were married, their husband was expected to look after them. If they were single, then their father, brother or another male relative was expected to take care of them.

Housewives and Mothers

Even though there had been an unmarried woman on the throne in Elizabethan England, the roles of women in society were very limited. There were very clear expectations of men and women, and in general men were expected to be the breadwinners and women to be housewives and mothers. On average, a woman gave birth to a child every two years, but as a lot of babies and children died from sickness, families were not always large. Childbearing was considered a great honour to women, as children were seen as blessings from God.

Professional Women

Women were not allowed to enter the professions i.e law, medicine, politics, but they could work in domestic service as cooks, maids, etc. Women were also allowed to write works of literature, providing the subject was suitable for women: mainly translations or religious works. Women were not allowed to act on the public stage or write for the public stage. Acting was considered dishonourable for women. In Shakespeare's plays, the roles of women were often played by young boys.

Marriage

A man was considered to be the head of a marriage, and he had the legal right to chastise his wife. However, it is important to understand what this "headship" meant. It did not mean, as if often supposed, that the husband was able to command his wife to do anything he pleased. He was expected to take care of her, make sure she had everything she needed, and most importantly to love her and be a good father to any children they had. If a husband felt the need to chastise his wife, then he was not allowed to be cruel or inflict bodily harm. If he did abuse his wife, then he could be prosecuted or prevented from living with her. There was no divorce: marriage generally lasted as long as the couple both lived.

TASK: Sum up each heading in one sentence

Patriarchal Society

Housewives and Mothers

Professional Women

Marriage

ACTIVITY ELEVEN: Summarise your learning

Use the space below to summarise what you have learned so far.
You may decide how to present this summary.

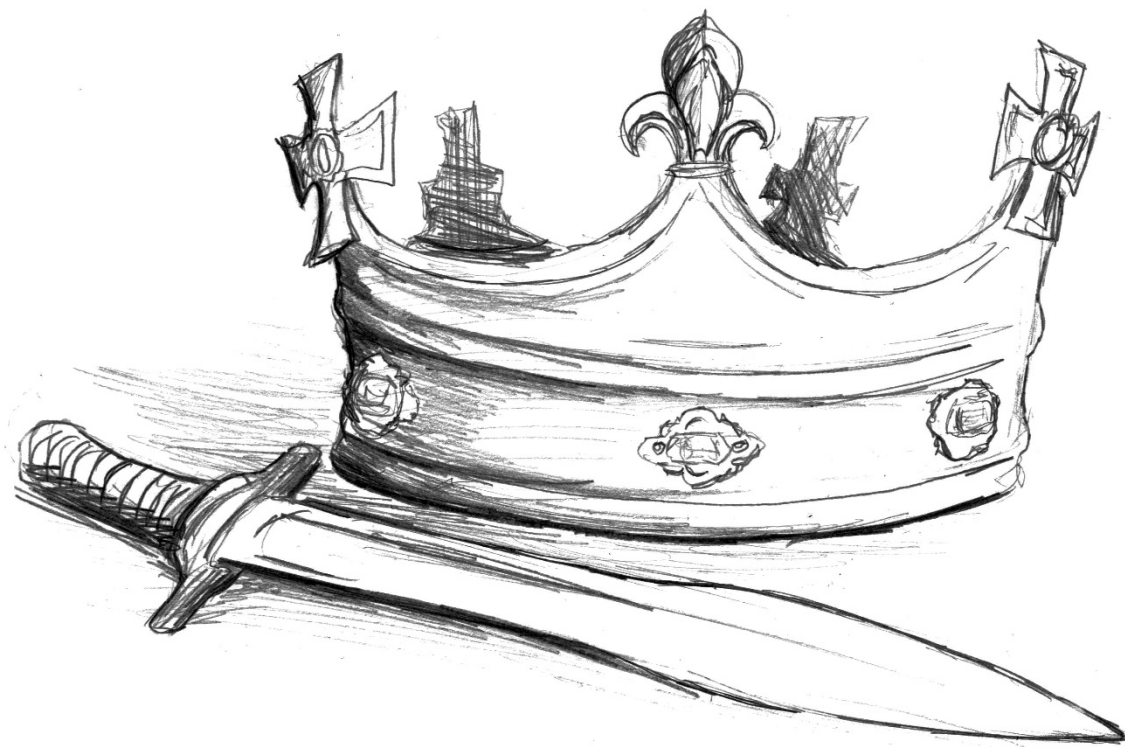
NOTES

Use the space below to make any extra notes you may need.

ANSWERS

Check your answer for the Great Chain of Being activity.





'Blood will have blood.'

- Macbeth

