

Act 5- Knowledge Organiser

Plot summary:

Act V scene i – Lady Macbeth is sleep walking and trying to wash an imaginary blood spot from her hands.

Act V scene ii – Malcolm's army is at Birnam Wood and hear reports that Macbeth's supporters are deserting him.

Act V scene iii – Macbeth is besieged but puts his trust in the witches' prophecy.

Act V scene iv – Malcolm orders his army to cut down branches from Birnam Wood to disguise the number of soldiers.

Act V scene v – Macbeth is told of his wife's death and about the news that Birnam Wood seems to be approaching. He resolves to die fighting.

Act V scene vi - ix – Macbeth is killed by Macduff (who reveals he was delivered by caesarean and so not properly 'born'). Malcolm becomes the new king of Scotland and order is restored.

Key Terms:

dramatic irony – when the audience knows something that the character/s on stage does not

equivocation – double dealing
camouflage – hiding by blending with the surroundings

vanquished – defeated

hubristic – excessively self-confident

illusion – false idea

tyrant – a cruel ruler

exiled – expelled from your country

fiend – evil spirit



Key Themes:

Guilt - the play shows the terrible consequences of murdering a king.

Kingship vs tyranny – Duncan and Macbeth embody the qualities of a good king and a tyrant respectively.

Order vs chaos Natural order is disrupted then re-established.

Quotes:

“Out, damned spot!”

“who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.”

“Some say he's mad; others that lesser hate him Do call it valiant fury.”

“Let them fly all:

Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane, I cannot taint with fear.”

“I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hack'd.”

“Let every soldier hew him down a bough And bear't before him:”

“Our castle's strength

Will laugh a siege to scorn: “

“Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage And then is heard no more:”

“Do we but find the tyrant's power to-night, Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.”

“What's he

That was not born of woman? Such a one Am I to fear, or none.”

“Macduff was from his mother's womb Untimely ripp'd.”

“This dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,”

