

Characters		Plot	
Macbeth	Protagonist, ambitious, ruthless, flawed	Act 1 M and Banquo meet witches, they tell Macbeth he will be Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland / they tell Banquo his children will be king/ Cawdor executed as a traitor and Macbeth has his role, Macbeth writes to Lady M, who reads his letter and then appeals to the evil spirits to help her support M. Duncan arrives, fully trusting his hosts. M has doubts about murdering King D – LM taunts him and helps persuade him to act.	Act 1 M and Banquo meet witches, they tell Macbeth he will be Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland / they tell Banquo his children will be king/ Cawdor executed as a traitor and Macbeth has his role, Macbeth writes to Lady M, who reads his letter and then appeals to the evil spirits to help her support M. Duncan arrives, fully trusting his hosts. M has doubts about murdering King D – LM taunts him and helps persuade him to act.
Lady Macbeth	Strong and ambitious, has more 'male' qualities, goes mad		
Witches	Supernatural beings, they can see into the future, cannot be trusted		
Banquo	Macbeth's friend, sons prophesied to rule, killed and returns as ghost		
Duncan	Good king (audience believed was chosen by God), trusts M, murdered		
Macduff	Wife and children killed by M's armies; born by caesarian, he kills Macbeth		
Malcolm	Heir to throne (oldest son of Duncan), good man, crowned king at end of play		
Fleance	Banquo's son, the witches suggest he could be King, nearly murdered by M/		
Dramatic/Stylistic Devices			
Soliloquy	One character speaking to audience; M uses to make audience agree with his plans (be complicit)	Act 2 Macbeth kills Duncan. After, he is afraid he will never sleep again. He leaves the daggers in the room and LM has to return them. She is annoyed that he is afraid and tells him that a little water will clear their hands and hide the evidence of the murder. Malcolm and Donaldbain fear for their lives and flee. M crowned king of Scotland.	Act 2 Macbeth kills Duncan. After, he is afraid he will never sleep again. He leaves the daggers in the room and LM has to return them. She is annoyed that he is afraid and tells him that a little water will clear their hands and hide the evidence of the murder. Malcolm and Donaldbain fear for their lives and flee. M crowned king of Scotland.
Pathetic fallacy	Link between the weather and the mood		
Iambic pentameter	A line of 10 syllables , following a pattern of unstressed/ stressed emphasis throughout		
Trochaic metre	A line of poetry that follows a line of stressed and then stressed emphasis – the witches uses this metre / it highlights how different and 'unnatural' they are		
Caesura	A break in a line of poetry – indicates pause, hesitation, reflection, uncertainty		
Exclamatives	A word or phrase that uses an exclamation mark at the end to show surprise/ shock/ fear	Act 3 Banquo suspects Macbeth of wrongdoing. Macbeth orders the murder of Banquo; B is killed but Fl escapes. M haunted by B's ghost at a banquet. LM has to dismiss the guests because of M's hallucinations.	Act 3 Banquo suspects Macbeth of wrongdoing. Macbeth orders the murder of Banquo; B is killed but Fl escapes. M haunted by B's ghost at a banquet. LM has to dismiss the guests because of M's hallucinations.
Imperatives	A command – uses to show power		
Context			
1. James I	It is likely that Shakespeare was trying to seek the King's approval when he wrote the play. King James was fascinated by witchcraft and it is likely that the witches were included to please him. James I wrote a pamphlet on witches called ' <i>Demonology</i> '.	Act 4 Witches seeks the witches' advice: they warn him to be careful of sons of Banquo and Macduff, but reassure him no-one born of woman can harm him, and that he is safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane castle (his home). He orders the murder of Macduff's wife and children	Act 4 Witches seeks the witches' advice: they warn him to be careful of sons of Banquo and Macduff, but reassure him no-one born of woman can harm him, and that he is safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane castle (his home). He orders the murder of Macduff's wife and children
2. Divine Right of Kings	James I believed in the Divine Right of Kings: It was believed that the king or queen was chosen directly by God and that they were the most important person in the country.		
3 . The Gunpowder Plot	The play was first performed not long after the Gunpowder Plot . Shakespeare shows the murderers of a king tormented by their own guilt and driven to their doom. James I was given a medal to commemorate the gunpowder plot which featured the image of a serpent.	Act 5 Lady M is going mad. She is haunted by her actions and imagines seeing blood on her hands. She later kills herself. Macduff realises that the witches have tried him, as Birnam Wood appears to be moving towards Dunsinane castle, and that Macduff was born by caesarean section. Macduff kills M, Malcolm is restored as King of Scotland. Macbeth's head is put on a stake.	Act 5 Lady M is going mad. She is haunted by her actions and imagines seeing blood on her hands. She later kills herself. Macduff realises that the witches have tried him, as Birnam Wood appears to be moving towards Dunsinane castle, and that Macduff was born by caesarean section. Macduff kills M, Malcolm is restored as King of Scotland. Macbeth's head is put on a stake.
Key Vocabulary:			
		Power	The desire to have control
		Usurped	To take power from someone by force
		Manipulative	To get one's own way by tricking someone skilfully
Tyrannical	A cruel misuse of power		
	Cathartic		
		Exploitation	Taking advantage of someone - Witches exploit Macbeth and trick him
		Tragedy	A play that revolves around the downfall of a character that is caused by a key character flaw: Macbeth's excessive ambition