

In preparation for a Socratic Discussion on Wednesday, examine the following questions within your group. You may come prepared with notes and questions. The direction of the discussion will be determined by the class based on the topics on this list.

1. Traditionally, the tragic hero is a basically good and noble person who fails because of some fault in his character. Determine whether or not Macbeth qualifies as a tragic hero. Use the worksheet entitled, "Shakespearean Heroes and Their Character Flaws," to help cull evidence from the text.
2. Even though the witches' prophecies seem to negate Macbeth's free will, point out specific instances of Macbeth willfully choosing evil over good.
3. Many critics see Lady Macbeth as a stereotyped symbol of evil; others cite her human qualities as proof that Shakespeare meant her to be multifaceted character. Which interpretation is correct?
4. Choose what you consider to be the clearest, most effective image that Shakespeare uses in *Macbeth*. Try to choose an image that helps you most concretely grasp a character trait or any difficult concept. Defend your choice. Explain Shakespeare's purpose in using imagery. (Ex. blood, clothing, animals, night, and sleep.)
5. Shakespeare uses the soliloquy technique extensively in *Macbeth*. Choose the one soliloquy that you think most successfully defines a particular character in the play. Why did Shakespeare choose to have the character use a soliloquy here? Be able to defend your choice.