Daily Bard

QUOTATION SHEET

Macbeth: key quotation sheet

10 quotations worth knowing by heart, each with a plain-English reading, space for your notes, and a fill-the-gap test.



How to use this sheet

These are the 10 quotations from the **Macbeth study guide**, set out for revision. Part one gives each quotation with a plain-English reading and space for your own notes. Part two prints them again with a word missing from each line, so that you can test yourself.

- [ ] Read the quotation aloud twice. Sound helps memory more than staring does.
- [ ] In the note space, name one method (a device, a word choice, a feature of the verse) and the effect it has.
- [ ] Add one link: to a theme, to another moment in the text, or to a point of context.
- [ ] A day later, cover part one and complete part two from memory.

Part one: the quotations

> Fair is foul, and foul is fair;
> Hover through the fog and filthy air.
>
> WITCHES · ACT 1, SCENE 1

Plain English: Good is bad and bad is good; let us fly off through the murk.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Stars, hide your fires;
> Let not light see my black and deep desires.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 4

Plain English: Let the stars go dark so that no light can reveal what I secretly want.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Come, you spirits
> That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
>
> LADY MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 5

Plain English: Come, spirits that serve murderous thoughts, and strip away my womanhood.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Look like th' innocent flower,
> But be the serpent under 't.
>
> LADY MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 5

Plain English: Appear harmless, but be the snake hidden beneath.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> I have no spur
> To prick the sides of my intent, but only
> Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
>
> MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 7

Plain English: Nothing drives me on except ambition, which jumps too high and comes crashing down.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Is this a dagger which I see before me,
> The handle toward my hand?
>
> MACBETH · ACT 2, SCENE 1

Plain English: Is that a dagger in front of me, its handle turned for me to grasp?

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
> Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
> The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
> Making the green one red.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 2, SCENE 2

Plain English: Could the whole ocean wash my hand clean? No: my hand would turn the seas red.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> I am in blood
> Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more,
> Returning were as tedious as go o'er.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 3, SCENE 4

Plain English: I have waded so deep into blood that going back would be as wearisome as going on.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Out, damned spot, out, I say! ... Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?
>
> LADY MACBETH · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Plain English: Away, cursed stain. Who would have guessed the old man had so much blood in him?

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
> That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
> And then is heard no more.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 5, SCENE 5

Plain English: Life is only a moving shadow, a bad actor who swaggers and worries through his hour on stage and is then forgotten.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

Part two: test yourself

Fill each gap from memory, then check against part one. Mark the ones you missed and come back to them tomorrow.

> Fair is foul, and foul is fair;
> Hover _____ the fog and filthy air.
>
> WITCHES · ACT 1, SCENE 1

> _____, hide your fires;
> Let not light see my black and deep _____.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 4

> Come, you _____
> That tend on mortal _____, unsex me here,
>
> LADY MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 5

> Look like th' _____ flower,
> But be the _____ under 't.
>
> LADY MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 5

> I have no spur
> To prick the sides of my _____, but only
> Vaulting ambition, which _____ itself
>
> MACBETH · ACT 1, SCENE 7

> Is this a _____ which I see before me,
> The _____ toward my hand?
>
> MACBETH · ACT 2, SCENE 1

> Will all great _____ ocean wash this blood
> Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will _____
> The _____ seas incarnadine,
> _____ the green one red.
>
> MACBETH · ACT 2, SCENE 2

I am in _____
_____ in so far that, should I wade no more,
_____ were as tedious as go o'er.

MACBETH · ACT 3, SCENE 4

Out, damned spot, out, I say! ... Yet who would have _____ the old man to have had so much blood in him?

LADY MACBETH · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Life's but a _____ shadow, a poor player
That _____ and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is _____ no more.

MACBETH · ACT 5, SCENE 5

Next steps

Turn three of these quotations into full paragraphs with the **essay planner**, and check your method against the **close reading toolkit**. For a small daily dose of the language, **Daily Bard** shows one passage each morning with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.



A page of Shakespeare, every day.

This resource comes from Daily Bard, an app for iPhone and iPad. Each morning it shows one engraved plate and one passage, exactly as Shakespeare wrote it, with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.

Free to download. The Full Edition is a one-time US$11.99: no subscription, no account, no ads, no tracking.

Get it on the App Store: **apps.apple.com/app/id6792967225**

More free study guides, lesson plans and close readings: dailybard.app