Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Miss Skirtich

26 October 2017

English 12: British Literature

**"Macbeth" Act I- Writing Prompt**

*Choose one of the following prompts below and compose a succinct, thorough response using at least 2 pieces of textual evidence. Make sure to cite your quotes from the play properly. Example: If the quote is this: Was the hope drunk*

*Wherein you dressed yourself?" (I.vii.36-37).*

1. The witches' spells are full of rich imagery from the natural world. What effect does this focus on nature have on the mood of the play?
2. Macbeth rarely speaks directly of killing Duncan. Instead he uses less brutal language, or euphemisms. *Writing Prompt:* Why do you think Macbeth avoids using the words "murder," "kill," etc.? What does this tell you about Macbeth's state of mind at this stage of the play?
3. Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth, “We will proceed no further in this business” (l.vii.34), meaning that he will not kill King Duncan. Yet, by the end of the scene, just some 60 lines later, he is resolved to commit murder. Note how Lady Macbeth counters Macbeth’s arguments. *Writing Prompt*: How does Lady Macbeth convince him to kill Duncan? How do you ask for what you want? Does it differ from Lady Macbeth’s tactics?

*Compose your response on a word document, using the following guidelines to help you compose a great response:*

* 1. **Use 12pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins throughout the entire document, double space the body of your paper (leave the MLA heading and title in single space). The MLA heading is on the top here!**
  2. **When talking about characters, always use PRESENT TENSE instead of past tense. Since characters live on forever in books and plays, we refer to them in present, even if they die in the text.**

**Example:** When Hamlet stabs Polonius when he is in Gertrude's room, he **kills** Polonius.

* 1. **Never use contractions.** When you write formally, avoid all contractions that appear as slang in writing.

Example: Instead of "**shouldn’t**" write out "**should not**"

* 1. **Only use 3rd person voice when speaking.** This means to never use 1st person or 2nd person POV. That means no **I, you, we, us.** Use **he, she, it, they, the reader** instead.

Example: Instead of "**We** learn about Claudius's guilt in the play" say "**The reader** learns about Claudius's guilt."

* 1. **Limit your use of TO BE verbs.** These verbs are helping verbs that attach themselves to other active verbs and water down the meaning of your sentences. Make your verbs more active and help to illustrate your point by eliminating these pesky words.

**Caution: NEVER** change words inside of quotes. As soon as you do that, it's no longer a quote.

Ex: Instead of saying, "Hamlet and Ophelia **are fighting** throughout the play" say instead, "Hamlet and Ophelia **fight** throughout the play."

Use only **10** of them in your paper to make your writing awesome!

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Am** | **Is** | **Are** | **Was** | **Were** |
| **Be** | **Being** | **Been** | **Have** | **Has** |
| **Had** | **Could** | **Would** | **Should** | **May** |
| **Might** | **Must** | **Do** | **Does** | **Did** |
|  | **Will** | **Shall** | **Can** |  |

*Notes:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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