

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

6 November 2017

English 12: British Literature

"Macbeth" Act II- Writing Prompt

Choose one of the following prompts below and compose a succinct, thorough response using at least **2 pieces of textual evidence in your response**. Make sure to cite your quotes from the play properly, using the format (Act.Scene.Line)-----> (Act II Scene I lines 14-16)-----> (II.i.14-16).

Please label your document **Your last name- Macbeth WP#2**

1. How do you see the Porter's role in the play? Does he provide comic relief? Is he a messenger of sorts? Does his character serve some other function? In some productions, the Porter's part is omitted from the play. What effect does leaving the Porter out have on the play?
2. What motivates Macbeth to pursue the murder of Duncan? How does he manipulate the image of the dagger to push him to take action? What kind of emotions does Macbeth experience after he has taken his future into his own hands? Why does Macbeth hesitate at all before murdering Duncan, and how does that play a role in his relationship with Lady Macbeth? Explain.
3. Lady Macbeth acts like a propelling force throughout the murder of Duncan in Act II, yet after the murder is completed, her tone changes. Identify and characterize her emotions before the murder occurs and her concern that Macbeth will chicken out before he commits the deed, and compare it to her demeanor after she plants the bloody daggers with the chambermaids. Explain what kind of change she endures throughout this event.

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

- a. **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 of this page!**

- b. **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 Macbeth stabs Duncan, he **kills** him before he awakes.

- c. **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"

- d. **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 Macbeth's guilt in the play" say "**The reader** learns about Claudius's guilt."

- e. **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.

