

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

English 12: British Literature

14 December 2018

"Macbeth" Act IV- Writing Prompt

Total Score: _____/30 points

*Choose one of the following prompts below and compose a succinct, thorough response using at least 4 **pieces of textual evidence (QUOTES)**. Make sure to cite your quotes from the play properly. Example: If your quote is from Act IV Scene ii Lines 36 to 37, then cite it like this ----> (IV.ii.36-37). Period goes outside the second parenthesis **unless** the quote ends in a question mark or an exclamation mark.*

1. **No Man of Woman Born:** This passage is a perfect example of the double speak and inversion used by the witches throughout the play. The prophecy gives Macbeth a false sense of security because he does not know that Macduff was delivered by c-section. What is the significance of Macduff's birth? Do you agree that being delivered by c-section makes him not of a woman born? How does the meaning of this prophecy change if it reads "no man born of woman"?
2. **Mad About Macduff:** Lady Macduff is clearly upset that Macduff has left her (presumably) to conspire against Macbeth. Do you blame her for being upset about leaving his wife and family? Do you think that his loyalty is misaligned? Or, do you think that Macduff has his mindset in the right place? Explain your opinion from each character's perspective.
3. **I Just Can't Wait to be King:** Why does Malcolm think he doesn't have kingly qualities? Is there any other reason he wouldn't want to be king? What inspires him to change his mind? Do you think the characters in this scene think Macbeth has kingly qualities? What do you think it takes to be a good leader? Would you want to be king?
4. **What Makes a Modern Man?** Reread this section of the play, making note of each time anything related to manhood is mentioned. Discuss other scenes where "manliness" is a motivator? As a class, write a list of what it means to be a man in Macbeth. Now write a list of what it means to be a man in modern times. Writing Prompt: How do the values of manhood differ in modern times? What do you think it takes to be a good man?

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. The MLA heading is on the top here.**
- 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 Hamlet stabs Polonius when he is in Gertrude's room, he **kills** Polonius.

- 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 Claudius'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.

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: _____
