

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

8 December 2017

English 12: British Literature

"Macbeth" Act V- Writing Prompt

Total Score: _____/30 points

*Choose one of the following prompts below and compose a succinct, thorough response using at least **2 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. **The Trouble with Tragedy:** Describe what is happening to Lady Macbeth in this scene. Why is she so troubled? How has she changed since the beginning of the play? Does her change say anything about the theme of ambition in the play? What would you do for your ambition? How do you differ from Lady Macbeth?
2. **Fit to be King?** In this scene, Scottish rebels are discussing Macbeth. What is the metaphor they use to describe Macbeth and his role as a king? What idea does this metaphor get across and how is it effective? What do you think it takes to be a good leader?
3. **King and Country:** In parts of the play (2.4.1[^]25) we see strange happenings. Now (5.2.30[^]34) the country is described as sick and in need of medicine. Why does this metaphor work? Do the strange happenings or this current sickness say anything about Macbeth's job as king? What does this say about kingship in general?
4. **The Nature of Things:** Describe the role of nature in this scene. Does it differ from how we see nature portrayed earlier in the play? Does this tie into the theme of doubles or everything is what is not?
5. **Sound and Soliloquy in Writing:** One of the most well known soliloquies in all of Shakespeare's plays is the one delivered by Macbeth in Act 5 after learning of Lady Macbeth's death (5.5.20[^]31). Who is Macbeth talking to (himself, the audience, Seyton)? What is Macbeth saying in this speech? What is Macbeth's state of mind at this point in the play? What is the symbolism of The candle?

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 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: _____
