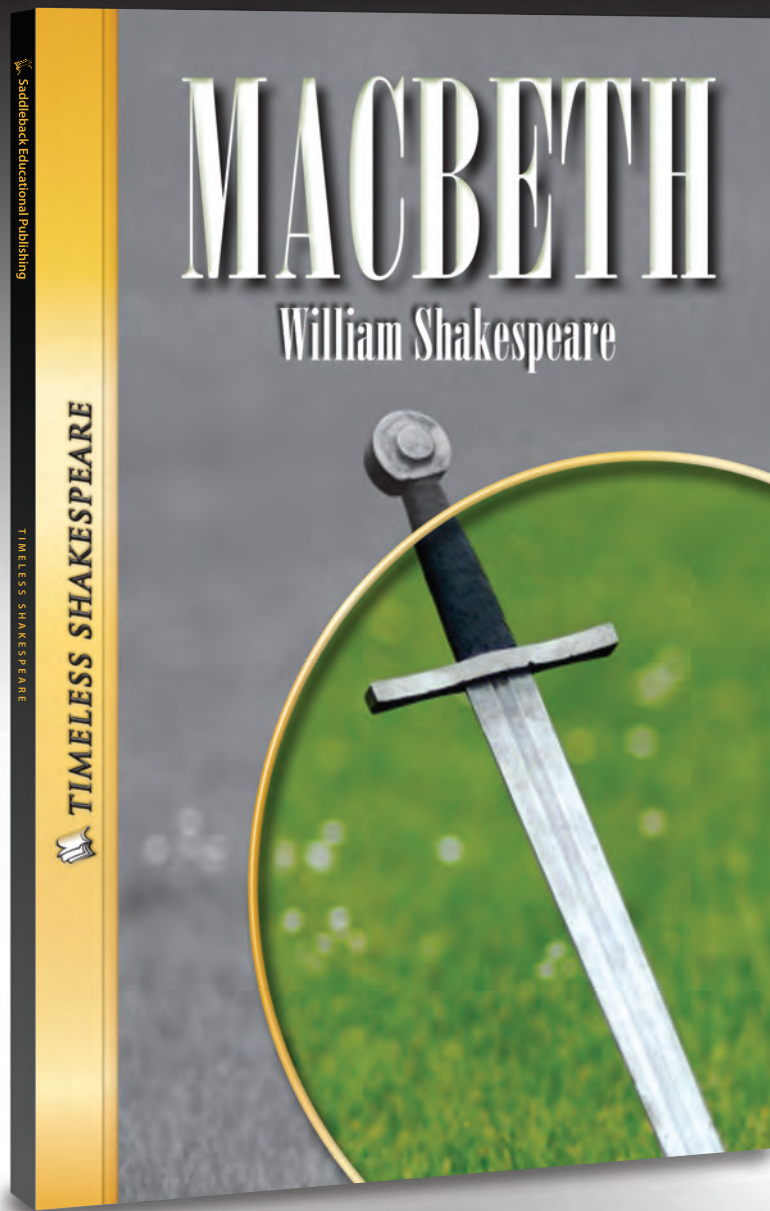




TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

STUDY GUIDE



| Contents |

Notes to the Teacher	4
Facts About the Author	5
Facts About the Times	5
Facts About the Characters	6
Summaries by Act	6
Literary Glossary	8
Answer Key	10

ACT EXERCISES

1 Pre-reading, Introduction.	12
2 Comprehension Check, Act 1	13
3 Words and Meanings, Act 1	14
4 Character Study, Act 1.	15
5 Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 1	16
6 Recalling Details, Act 1.	17
7 Comprehension Check, Act 2	18
8 Words and Meanings, Act 2	19
9 Character Study, Act 2.	20
10 Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 2	21
11 Analyzing Similes and Metaphors, Act 2.	22
12 Comprehension Check, Act 3	23
13 Words and Meanings, Act 3	24
14 Character Study, Act 3.	25
15 Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 3	26

16 Finding Cause and Effect, Act 3	27
17 Comprehension Check, Act 4	28
18 Words and Meanings, Act 4	29
19 Character Study, Act 4.	30
20 Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 4	31
21 Analogies, Act 4	32
22 Comprehension Check, Act 5	33
23 Words and Meanings, Act 5	34
24 Character Study, Act 5.	35
25 Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 5	36
26 Considering Point of View, Act 5	37

END-OF-BOOK EXERCISES

27 Looking Back	38
28 Final Exam, Part 1.	39
28 Final Exam, Part 2.	40
28 Final Exam, Part 3.	41

UNIVERSAL EXERCISES

29 Beyond the Text	42
30 Theme Analysis.	43
31 Character Study.	44
32 Vocabulary Study	45
33 Glossary Study	46
34 Critical Review, Part 1.	47
34 Critical Review, Part 2	48

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE PROGRAM

Timeless Shakespeare were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each *Timeless Shakespeare* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later, more in-depth investigations of the original works, *Timeless Shakespeare* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of reluctant readers: airy, uncomplicated page design, shortened sentences, easy-reading type style, elimination of archaic words and spellings, shortened total book length, and handsome illustrations.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and seven "universal" exercises which may be used to follow up the reading of any *Timeless Shakespeare* novel or play.

In addition to the universal exercises, 27 title-specific exercises are included to review, test, and enrich students' comprehension as well as their grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. All reproducible, the worksheets provided

for Shakespeare's plays are designed to be used act-by-act as the student's reading of the play proceeds. Several exercises are provided for each act. One always focuses on key vocabulary. Others include a simple comprehension check and treatment of an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A three-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure each student has a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. Obviously, the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the finest poet and playwright who ever lived. Yet he was the son of illiterate parents and never attended college!

Much of this remarkable man's life is shrouded in mystery. He had been dead almost a hundred years before anyone wrote a short account of his life. But we do know that his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful glovemaking who also traded in wool, hides, and grain. They lived in an English market town called Stratford-on-Avon, where William was born in 1564. Their house still stands.

Until the age of 13 or 14, Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school where he read the great Latin classics of Cicero, Virgil, and Seneca. Some stories say that he had to leave school early because of his father's financial difficulties. But there is no official record of his life until 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. By 1585, he and Anne had three children. No one knows for

sure what happened to him during the next seven years, although one account says that he was a schoolmaster. In 1592, however, records reveal that he was working in London as both an actor and a playwright. By that year, he had published two popular poems and written at least three plays.

Records from various sources show that Shakespeare became wealthy. In 1597, he bought one of the grandest houses in Stratford. (It had 10 fireplaces!) The next year he bought 10 percent of the stock in the handsome Globe Theater and a fine house in London. His artistic life was very busy and productive. His theatrical company, known as the King's Men, presented a variety of plays, week after week. It is thought that he rehearsed in the mornings, acted in the afternoons, and wrote at night.

After 1612, he spent most of his time in Stratford with his family. He died there, at the age of 52, on April 23, 1616. The tomb of the great literary genius still stands at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1564, when Shakespeare was born...

About 100,000 people lived in London; the horsedrawn coach was introduced in England; the great Italian sculptor and painter, Michelangelo, died; an outbreak of plague killed more than 20,000 Londoners.

In 1616, when Shakespeare died...

Sir Walter Raleigh began his search for El Dorado; tobacco was becoming a popular crop in Virginia; Pocahontas died; the Catholic church forbade Galileo from conducting any further scientific investigations.

MACBETH

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

Duncan, the King of Scotland; a good and honorable man who is murdered by Macbeth

Macbeth, the Scottish Thane (nobleman) of Glamis and a general in Duncan's army

Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's wife

Banquo, a thane and a general in Duncan's army. A friend of Macbeth's, he is later murdered by him

Fleance, Banquo's son. He escapes when his father is murdered

Malcolm, Duncan's eldest son and heir

Donalbain, another son of Duncan's

Macduff, a thane, loyal to Duncan

Lady Macduff, Macduff's wife. To punish Macduff, Macbeth has her and her family murdered

Ross, Macduff's cousin

Lennox, a thane, loyal to Duncan

Seyton, Macbeth's aide

Siward, an English earl. He helps Malcolm in the fight against Macbeth

Young Siward, Siward's son. He bravely faces Macbeth in a duel and is killed

The Three Witches, supernatural beings who tell Macbeth and Banquo about certain events that will occur in the future

SUMMARIES BY ACT

ACT 1

Scotland is at war. Near a battlefield, three witches meet during a storm. They plan to greet Macbeth, one of the Scottish generals, before the setting of the sun. Meanwhile, a soldier comes to King Duncan with a report about the battle. He speaks of Macbeth's great bravery on the field. To reward Macbeth for this, Duncan gives him the title *Thane of Cawdor*. That evening, the three witches use this title when they greet Macbeth. They surprise him by predicting that he will soon be king.

They also tell Banquo, another general, that he will be the father of many kings. Later, King Duncan, his sons Malcolm and Donalbain, along with Banquo and other lords, go to Inverness, Macbeth's castle, for a visit. In her wish to be queen, Lady Macbeth encourages her husband to kill Duncan.

ACT 2

While Duncan is sleeping, Macbeth kills him. Lady Macbeth smears the drugged and sleeping guards with

Duncan's blood. Early in the morning, Macduff and Lennox arrive at Inverness, wishing to see Duncan. They discover the body, so Macbeth kills the guards, blaming Duncan's death on them. Duncan's sons flee—Malcolm to England and Donalbain to Ireland. Ross and Macduff assume that Duncan's sons had paid the guards to kill their father. Because the two sons left the country, they appear to be guilty. Macbeth is crowned King of Scotland.

ACT 3

As Banquo thinks about what the witches had said, he realizes that all their words about Macbeth have come true. He remembers the witches' words about his own sons and has strong hopes for their futures. Macbeth arranges with murderers to have Banquo and Fleance killed. As Banquo is being murdered, Fleance escapes. That evening, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, the new king and queen, welcome guests to a banquet. As guests are seated, Macbeth sees a vision of Banquo's ghost. He speaks to it in such a way that his part in Banquo's death becomes clear. Lady Macbeth orders the guests to leave, saying that her husband is not feeling well. Suspicious of Macbeth, Macduff goes to England. He plans to get King Edward's help in the fight against Macbeth.

ACT 4

Macbeth visits the three witches and asks them about his future. They show him a series of visions that tell the future in the form of riddles. Then the witches disappear, and Lennox arrives.

He reports to Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England. Angry about this news, Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's wife, children, and any servants who happen to be with them. Murderers arrive at Fife, Macduff's castle, and kill everyone inside. In England, Malcolm and Macduff make plans to restore peace to Scotland. They talk about the help that England's King Edward has promised them. Ross then arrives with news about the murder of Macduff's family. This makes the shocked Macduff even more determined to overthrow Macbeth.

ACT 5

Lady Macbeth appears to have lost her mind. Her doctor says he can do nothing for her. Near Dunsinane, the forces led by Malcolm and Macduff prepare to attack. Malcolm tells his men to hide behind the camouflage of branches cut from the trees of Birnam Wood. As he gets ready for the attack, Macbeth receives the news that Lady Macbeth is dead. He also hears that Birnam Wood is moving toward Dunsinane. He remembers the witches' prophecy: "*Macbeth shall never be beaten until / Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Hill,*" and he becomes fearful. Then he also remembers their other prophecy: "*None of woman born shall harm Macbeth,*" so he feels safe again. Later, he finds out that Macduff was not born in the normal way. In a duel, Macduff kills Macbeth. Later, Malcolm becomes King of Scotland.

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

LITERARY GLOSSARY

aside lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character's inner thoughts with the audience

Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine's aside revealed her inner terror.

backstage the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.

cast the entire company of actors performing in a play

The entire cast must attend tonight's dress rehearsal.

character a fictional person or creature in a story or play

Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.

climax the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

The outlaw's capture made an exciting climax to the story.

comedy a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.

conflict the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde illustrates the conflict between good and evil.

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.

drama a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.

event something that happens; a specific occurrence

The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

motive the internal or external force that makes a character do something

What was that character's motive for telling a lie?

NAME _____

DATE _____

Read the Introduction at the front of *Macbeth*.

1. Macbeth is set in the year 1040. How long ago was that? _____

If the average lifetime is 70 years, about how many lifetimes have gone by since then? _____

2. What word or words in the Introduction suggest that this play is *not* a comedy?

3. After reading the Introduction, study the book's cover. Which character do you think is pictured in the *background*? _____

4. Macbeth himself is pictured in the *foreground* of the cover. In what way does this picture show what you already know about Macbeth?

5. Have you ever known anyone who seemed *too* driven by ambition? What did that person say or do suggesting that ambition had taken over his or her life?

6. Suppose you had a friend who seemed ready to do something reckless in the name of ambition. What advice would you give him or her?

7. The world has changed a lot since 1040. Do you think people's motivations have changed, too? Explain your reasoning.

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer each question.

1. When and where do the witches meet Macbeth for the first time?
 - a. after the battle, before sunset, on the heath
 - b. before the battle, after sunset, on the prairie
 - c. during the battle, at sunrise, at Inverness
2. What is Macbeth's reward for bravery on the battlefield?
 - a. He is made king.
 - b. He is named Thane of Cawdor.
 - c. King Duncan visits him at Inverness.
3. What do the witches tell Macbeth?
 - a. that he will be the father of kings
 - b. that he will be king
 - c. that he will live a long and happy life
4. Why is the former Thane of Cawdor executed?
 - a. for treason
 - b. for cowardice
 - c. for deserting his post
5. What does Lady Macbeth see as a great failing in Macbeth?
 - a. that he is too cruel and ruthless
 - b. that he is too kind and honest
 - c. that he is too timid and shy
6. Who meets Duncan when he first gets to Inverness?
 - a. Macbeth
 - b. Banquo
 - c. Lady Macbeth
7. What does Lady Macbeth talk her husband into doing?
 - a. moving to England
 - b. overthrowing King Duncan
 - c. killing King Duncan

WORDS AND MEANINGS

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Find and circle the hidden vocabulary words from Act 1. Words may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ___ FILTHY | ___ EMBRACE |
| ___ VILLAIN | ___ STRENGTH |
| ___ FANTASIES | ___ CRUELTY |
| ___ VANISHED | ___ DAGGERS |
| ___ PROPHECY | ___ MURDER |
| ___ PROSPER | ___ THUNDER |

A	K	X	P	K	Y	H	T	L	I	F	G
Z	Q	V	A	N	I	S	H	E	D	R	E
Y	P	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E	D
G	R	M	R	H	M	P	N	J	W	P	Y
L	O	U	N	I	U	A	O	V	J	S	T
F	P	R	S	I	T	N	C	N	I	O	L
E	H	D	Q	U	A	E	D	V	H	R	E
Z	E	E	B	M	H	L	W	E	U	P	U
C	C	R	C	A	D	Y	L	X	R	M	R
L	Y	F	A	N	T	A	S	I	E	S	C
F	C	S	R	E	G	G	A	D	V	B	S
G	D	E	M	B	R	A	C	E	T	F	B

B. Now complete each sentence with one or more of the hidden words.

1. The crime of deliberately taking someone’s life is called _____.
2. If something is very dirty, it is _____.
3. Storms are often accompanied by _____ and lightning.
4. After the _____ committed his crime, he _____ and no one saw him again.
5. Things that are only imagined and not real are called _____.
6. The fortune teller’s _____ was that the questioner would _____ in his business.
7. _____ to animals is a crime.
8. Another word for *knives* is _____.
9. The _____ of his _____ made me think of a bear hug.