

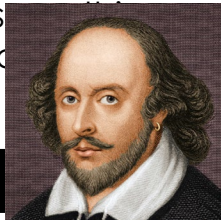
Year 8 Term 1: The Flawed Self

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A '**flaw**' is defined as an 'imperfection'. We all have flaws. And that's because nobody is perfect, despite what some films might suggest!

This term, you will be exploring how writers present us with characters whose flaws often result in tragedy.

The main text that you will read is **Macbeth**, written by arguably the greatest writer in the English language: **William Shakespeare**. Shakespeare created characters who weren't just interesting – they taught us something about ourselves. Macbeth is one such character. His flaws make him the ultimate tragic hero.



Shakespearean context

William Shakespeare wrote **Macbeth** in **1606**, which was during the **Renaissance** (means 'rebirth' in French) period: this period had a renewed interest in the culture and ideas of ancient Greece & Rome.

Shakespeare wrote all three different genres of plays: **comedies, histories and tragedies**.



His **plays often started with something exciting** like a fight or a group of witches together on the moor; Shakespeare's audiences were hooked from the start!

What exactly is a tragedy?

Tragedy is a branch of drama that tells the **sad/terrible events** encountered or caused by a heroic individual (the **tragic hero**).

The tragic hero isn't all good or all bad but they are **noble**.

The tragic hero is in some part **responsible** for the change of fortune due to their character **flaw** or stubborn **pride**.

The hero recognises that things have gone wrong but it's too late!

The **ending** is **disastrous**: lots of people usually die, including the **tragic hero**.

Conventions of a play

Act – separates play's major sections (there are usually 3 or 5)

Scene – a 'chapter' in an act

Dialogue – what the characters say to each other

Stage directions – instructions to the actors and director. In brackets and/or italics.

Macbeth themes

- **Ambition**
- **Good and evil**
- **Supernatural**
- **Appearance and reality**
- **Guilt**
- **Gender**



Macbeth Characters

Macbeth: One of King Duncan's generals. He loves power; the witches tempt him into murder. Originally Thane of Glamis, he becomes the Thane of Cawdor, then King of Scotland.

Lady Macbeth: Macbeth's wife. She is ambitious and drives him to murder but is driven mad by conscience.

Three Witches: Sinister ladies of witchcraft who tempt Macbeth to do dark deeds. **Banquo**: A general and friend of Macbeth. The prophecy does not corrupt him. He is murdered by Macbeth as he is considered a threat. His ghost haunts Macbeth.

King Duncan: The good and noble King of Scotland, murdered by Macbeth.

Y7 grammar recap

Noun types:

- **Concrete** – A noun we can see, hear, touch, smell or taste
- **Abstract** – A noun which we cannot experience with any of the 5 senses e.g. happiness, tension
- **Proper** – A noun which is the name or title of something and is capitalised
- **Collective** – A singular word used to group together a plural e.g. a group, a herd, a class

Verb types:

- **Imperative** – A commanding verb e.g. Do this work, sit down, let's go
- **Modal** – A verb expressing possibility or probability e.g. will, should, could, can, must

Tenses:

Past tense: used to describe things that happened in the past

Present tense: used to describe things that are happening now

Future Tense: Used to describe something which will happen in the future

Y8 grammar

Adjective types:

- **Descriptive** – An adjective which describes factual characteristics e.g. big, green
- **Evaluative** – An adjective expressing an opinion, can be disagreed with e.g. great, boring, amazing
- **Emotive** – An adjective which makes the reader feel a strong emotion e.g. shocking, starving, dangerous
- **Comparative** – An adjective ending in –er or with 'more' in front of it. e.g. bigger, faster, more exciting

Superlative – An adjective ending in –est or with 'most' in front of it. e.g. biggest, fastest, most exciting

Conjunctions:

- **Coordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins 2 main clauses
FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so
- **Subordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins a subordinate clause to a main one – e.g. while, as, because, since, if

Reminder!

ALWAYS check what the word is doing in the sentence as many words have different functions! e.g.

1. I will **park** the car. (park = **verb**)
2. I will go to the **park**. (park = **noun**)