

Year 8 Term 1: The Flawed Self N

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 and 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!

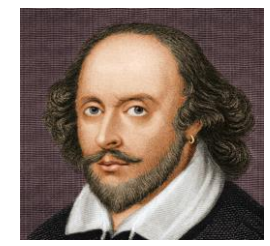
What exactly is a tragedy?

Tragedy: A type of play that tells a sad or terrible story about a heroic person.

Tragic Hero: A main character in a tragedy who is noble (important) but not completely good or evil.

Hamartia (Tragic Flaw): The character's flaw or weakness that causes their downfall.

Hubris: Being too proud or stubborn, which makes the hero make bad choices.



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.

Writing Rules

Persuade:

- IAMAFORESTER
- One-sided view

Dramatic monologue (a long speech by 1 person):

- Stage directions
- Clear emotions /emotive language
- A clear purpose
- Similes and metaphors

Letters:

- Addresses
- Date
- Greeting
- Paragraphs
- Sign off

Key Language, Structure & Form Techniques:

Imagery	When the writer creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind through their description. E.g. <i>"Glittering white, the blanket of snow covered everything"</i>
Personification	Giving human features to non-human things. E.g. <i>"The moon watched over us"</i>
Simile	Comparing two things using 'like' or 'as'. E.g. <i>"The snake moved like a ripple on a pond"</i>
Metaphor	Describes something by saying it is something else. It's not literal, but it helps create a vivid image or understanding. DOES NOT use "like" or "as". E.g. <i>"The world is a stage"</i>
Foreshadowing	When the writer hints at events that could happen later in the text.

Y8 Sentences

- **Pronoun Power**
***They** watched. **They** waited. **They** knew I didn't belong here.*
- **Lightning List**
*The forest gave me **silence, shade, secrets, solitude.***
- **Relentless Rhythm**
*I ran through the trees **and** over the roots **and** past the shadows **and** into the unknown.*

Perfect Paragraph

Answer Sentence: Start with a clear sentence that answers the question.

Evidence: Include a short quote from the text to support your answer.

Inferences & Connotations: Explain what the quote means and what feelings or ideas it suggests.

Techniques:

Name any writing techniques the author used (like language, structure, or form).

Effect of Techniques: Explain *how* these techniques make the writing powerful or interesting.