

Macbeth

Tuesday 12th January

Macbeth

Key Writing Skills



- Use metaphor, simile and personification.
- Use a range of authorial techniques to achieve specific effects.
- Introduce and develop characters through blending action, dialogue and description within sentences and paragraphs.
- Use semi-colons to link two clauses of equal weight.
- Use ellipsis to link ideas between paragraphs.

SPaG Warm-up

Semi-colons

L.O. To identify how semi-colons are used in writing.

Semicolons

A semicolon can be used in place of a conjunction to link two main clauses which are of equal importance.

Example: The film was brilliant, therefore we had a great time.

The film was brilliant; we had a great time.

;

Have they been used to join clauses of equal importance and instead of conjunctions?

Macbeth

King! He must be King! But how was it to be brought about? Even as she wondered, a servant entered the room.

"What is your tidings?" she demanded.

"The King comes here tonight."

She caught her breath; she started violently.

"Thou'rt mad to say it!" she cried out, before she could prevent herself; for in that instant she knew that the messenger had announced the death of the King. She and her husband together would murder him.

When her husband came, wild and breathless from his furious ride, she embraced him passionately; and, as they talked in low, rapid tones of the approaching King, she saw in his face that his thoughts were the same as hers. Yet perhaps they showed too plainly . . .

"Your face, my Thane," she warned him, "is as a book where men may read strange matters."

He nodded; then he faltered a little. Between the thinking and the doing of a deed, there was a line to be crossed. Though he was mighty in the trade of public blood, he shrank from private murder in the dark.

"We will speak further," he muttered.

But she would have none of it. Fate had promised him the crown, and the crown he would have.

"I will tell you all the rest to me."

Can you spot the semi-colons in the text?

Read the sentences aloud – what do you notice?

Are the clauses of equal importance?

Is the conjunction removed?

L.O. To be able to infer character's thoughts, feelings and motives at different points in the story.

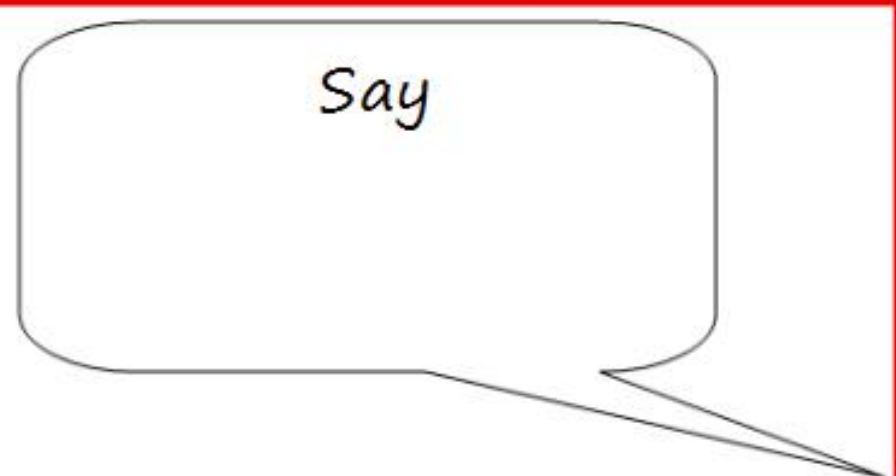
Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

"I have done the deed," he said, and stared down at his hands. He was holding two daggers: their blades and his hands were dripping with blood.

"This is a sorry sight," he said.

"A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight," cried she. But for once her words had no force for him. What he had done had put him out of her reach. To her, he had done no more than to kill an old man to get a crown; to himself, he had murdered sleeping innocence, he had murdered his own honour, he had killed his own soul. Already, he was a man apart.

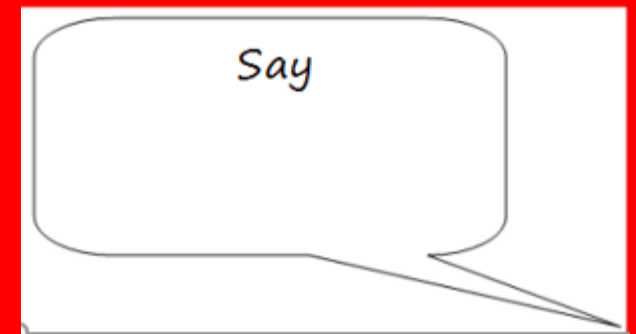
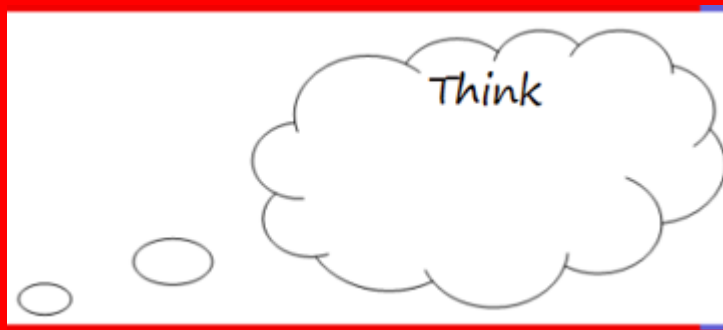
Compare the thoughts, feelings and motives for Macbeth and Lady Macbeth after the murder of King Duncan.



Say



Think



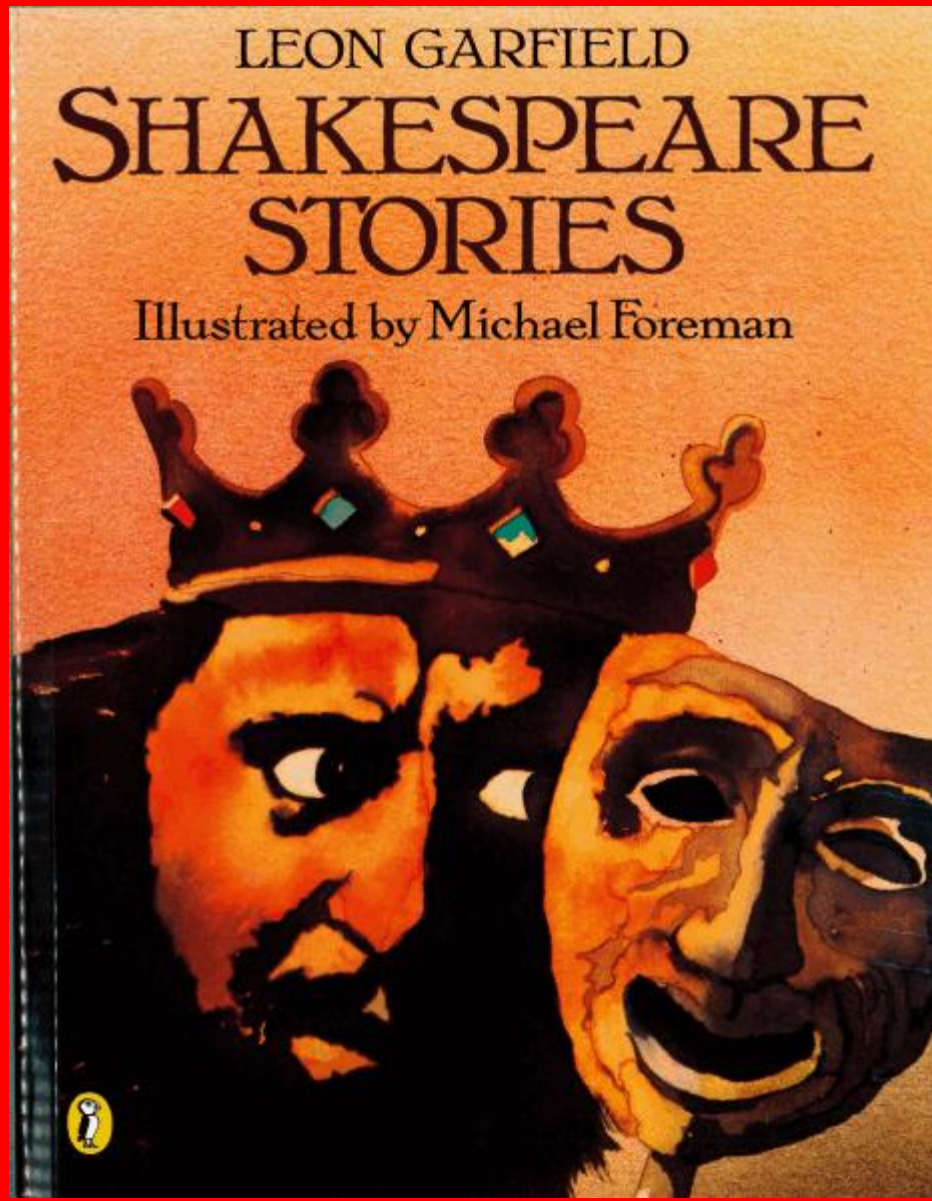
How might what they both think and say be different?

What might Macbeth be thinking but not say out loud to Lady Macbeth?

What might Lady Macbeth say to Macbeth, but be thinking?

For each of the two characters (Macbeth & Lady Macbeth), write what they would be thinking to themselves and saying to each other, in the first person from their point of views.

Use the sub-headings to organise your work.



Watch Miss Terrell's video of the reading of the next section of Macbeth.

Macbeth

What has happened in the story so far?

What do you think is going to happen next?

The old women's prophecy was fulfilled. The grain they had spied in Macbeth's heart had grown and flourished in that dark place. He seized the crown and mounted the throne. He was King, and none dared oppose him: not murdered Duncan's sons, not great Macduff, nor even Banquo, who, of all men, knew enough to bring him down.

"Thou hast it now," murmured Banquo thoughtfully: "King, Caw-

dor, Glamis, all as the weird women promised; yet I fear thou playedst most foully for it . . ."

He was at Forres in the royal palace, soon after Macbeth and his Lady had been crowned. There was to be a banquet that night. All the Scottish nobles, himself included, had been summoned to do homage to the new King. Banquo watched, but kept his thoughts to himself. This was partly caution, and partly because he also had been given a promise by the weird sisters. Though he would not be King himself, he would be father to kings.

"Ride you this afternoon?" inquired Macbeth, coming upon his old companion-in-arms, and fondly greeting him.

"Aye, my good Lord," answered Banquo, and confided that he would not be back till an hour or two after nightfall.

"Goes Fleance with you?"

"Aye, my good Lord . . ."

Macbeth nodded, and wished Banquo and his son Godspeed.

"Fail not our feast," he said and stared after Banquo long and deep. He had not forgotten the old women's prophecy to his friend; and the recollection of it festered in his heart.

A servant approached, bringing in two strange, muffled-looking men. They were grim fellows that the world had treated badly; and, in return, they were prepared to take their revenge upon the world—and upon Banquo, in particular.

They talked together and soon the matter was settled between them. The men departed, and Macbeth breathed harshly. "It is concluded!" he whispered. "Banquo, thy soul's flight, if it find heaven, must find it out tonight!" His friend and his friend's son were to be murdered that night.

"How now, my Lord? Why do you keep alone?"

Lady Macbeth approached the brooding King. Her face was worn, her eyes had lost their fire. She scarcely knew her husband any more. The deed he had done had set him apart, and now they seemed to face different ways: she without, and he, within.

"What's done is done," she urged; for to her it was, but not so for him.

"We have scorched the snake, not killed it," he warned. Banquo and his son still lived.

"What's to be done?" she asked. He shook his head.

"Be innocent of the knowledge," he bade her, "dearest chuck, till thou applaud the deed . . ."