

Motif: Blood

1. “Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my _____?”
2. “A little _____ clears us of this deed.”
3. “Out, damned _____! Out, I _____!”
4. “The multitudinous seas _____, making the green one red.”

Mini Prompt:

What does blood symbolise in this moment?



Motif: Blood

1. hands

Takeaways:

- Macbeth sees guilt as vast and unreachable.
- Blood becomes a symbol of moral consequence.
- Introduces ongoing imagery of stain + conscience.
- Zoom-in: “wash” – suggests futile attempts to cleanse guilt.

2. water

Takeaways:

- Lady Macbeth trivialises guilt.
- Dramatic irony foreshadows her breakdown.
- Highlights contrast between the couple’s reactions.
- Zoom-in: “little” – minimising the moral weight of murder.

3. spot & say

Takeaways:

- Lady Macbeth’s guilt manifests physically.
- Blood becomes a psychological burden she cannot escape.
- Symbolises moral corruption.
- Zoom-in: “spot” – deceptively small, but emotionally enormous.

4. incarnadine

Takeaways:

- Hyperbole reflects overwhelming guilt.
- Corruption spreads outward to the natural world.
- Contrast of green/red = innocence → ruin.
- Zoom-in: “incarnadine” – stain symbolising irreversible sin.



Motif: Darkness

1. “Stars, hide your _____; let not light see my _____ and deep desires.”
2. “Come, thick _____, and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell.”
3. “Dark _____ strangles the travelling lamp.”
4. “The instruments of _____ tell us truths.”

Mini Prompt:

How does darkness conceal ambition or corruption?

Motif: Darkness

1. fires & dark

Takeaways:

- Macbeth wants to conceal evil intentions.
- Light vs darkness mirrors morality.
- Conflict between conscience and ambition.
- Zoom-in: “hide” – active rejection of divine oversight

2. night

Takeaways:

- Lady Macbeth invites evil forces.
- Night = cloak for wrongdoing.
- Imagery foreshadows corruption.
- Zoom-in: “pall” – funeral shroud symbol.

3. night

Takeaways:

- Nature reflects moral collapse.
- Light overwhelmed by evil.
- Personification of disorder.
- Zoom-in: “strangles” – violence linked to moral suffocation.

4. darkness

Takeaways:

- Banquo warns of deceptive evil.
- Partial truths lead to corruption.
- Foreshadows Macbeth’s downfall.
- Zoom-in: “instruments” – tools of manipulation.



Motif: Sleep

1. “Macbeth does _____ sleep.”
2. “Sleep no more! Macbeth shall _____ no more!”
3. “The innocent sleep, that _____ up the ravelled sleeve of care.”
4. “You lack the _____ of all natures, sleep.”

Mini Prompt:

How does Shakespeare link sleep to innocence and order?

Motif: Sleep

1. murder

Takeaways:

- Metaphor for destroying innocence.
- His conscience will never be at rest.
- Breaks natural + divine order.
- Zoom-in: “murder” – violent severing of peace.

2. sleep

Takeaways:

- Repetition shows torment.
- Macbeth recognises psychological collapse.
- Reinforces theme of unnatural consequence.
- Zoom-in: “no more” – sense of permanence.

3. knits

Takeaways:

- Extended metaphor for healing + restoration.
- Sleep = divine protection.
- Shows contrast between innocence and Macbeth’s guilt.
- Zoom-in: “knits” – repairing emotional damage.

4. season

Takeaways:

- Lady Macbeth is unraveling.
- Sleep = essential human balance.
- Ties to chaos of regicide.
- Zoom-in: “season” – stabilising element of life.



Motif: Hands

1. “A little _____ clears us of this _____.”
2. “Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood clean from my _____?”
3. “All the perfumes of _____ will not sweeten this little hand.”
4. “This is a _____ sight.”

Mini Prompt:

What do hands symbolise about guilt or responsibility?

Motif: Hands

1. water & deed

“Takeaways:

- Lady Macbeth minimises guilt.
- Contrast with Macbeth’s despair.
- Foreshadows her breakdown.
- Zoom-in: “clears” – false moral purification.

2. hand

Takeaways:

- .Macbeth sees guilt as inescapable.
- Hyperbolic metaphor.
- Links blood to conscience.
- Zoom-in: “ocean” – scale of guilt.

3. Arabia

Takeaways:

- Sensory imagery of guilt.
- Lady Macbeth’s collapse.
- Even beauty cannot erase corruption.
- Zoom-in: “sweeten” – attempted transformation.

4. sorry

Takeaways:

- Immediate regret after murder.
- Foreshadows moral deterioration.
- Hands reflect agency + guilt.
- Zoom-in: “sorry” – emotional weight.

Motif: Nature & Weather

1. “When shall we three meet again in _____, lightning, or in rain?”
2. “So foul and _____ a day I have not seen.”
3. “The night has been _____.”
4. “Dark _____ strangles the travelling lamp.”

Mini Prompt:

How does nature reflect disorder or the supernatural?

Motif: Nature & Weather

1. thunder

Takeaways:

- Wicked atmosphere.
- Weather = supernatural presence.
- Sets tone of chaos.
- Zoom-in: “thunder” – cosmic disturbance.

2. fair

Takeaways:

- Paradox mirrors witches.
- Moral confusion.
- Foreshadows Macbeth’s corruption.
- Zoom-in: “foul and fair” – duality.

3. unruly

Takeaways:

- Nature reflects Duncan’s murder.
- Turmoil in the natural world.
- Disorder follows regicide.
- Zoom-in: “unruly” – rebellion against natural law.

4. night

Takeaways:

- Nature imagery of evil overpowering good.
- Personification emphasises conflict.
- Reinforces motif of darkness.
- Zoom-in: “strangles” – violent domination.

