

LADY MACBETH: THE PROFILE

Cover story: ambitious, persuasive and, in the end, haunted.

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Analyse how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth, and how she changes.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can link a trait to a quotation and explain key words.
- ☐ I can explain what her relationships show about her.
- ☐ I can track her change and link it to the play's themes.

1 The profile: traits and evidence

READ

4 marks

Name one trait each quotation suggests. Explain what the key words show. The first one is done for you.

#	QUOTATION	TRAIT	WHAT THE KEY WORDS SHOW
1	“Look like th' innocent flower, / But be the serpent under't.” ACT 1, SCENE 5	EXAMPLE deceptive	The flower is the innocent face shown to the world; the serpent is the danger hidden under it. A serpent also recalls the tempter in the Garden of Eden.
2	“Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,” ACT 1, SCENE 5	_____	_____
3	“A little water clears us of this deed.” ACT 2, SCENE 2	_____	_____

Line numbers and punctuation vary by edition: check your class edition.

2 Who's who: her relationships

THINK

6 marks

Lady Macbeth

husband

influence

witnesses

A Macbeth

Who leads in Act 1? Does that change by Act 5?

B The witches

Their prophecy reaches her in Macbeth's letter. What does it stir in her?

C Doctor and Gentlewoman

They watch her sleepwalk. What can she no longer hide?



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3 Her development arc

PLAN

Read each stop. Circle her control (1 = none, 5 = total). Write one reason.

ACT 1

1 2 3 4 5

She reads Macbeth's letter about the witches' prophecy. She persuades him to kill King Duncan, and plans the murder.

See quotations 1 and 2

ACT 2

1 2 3 4 5

After the murder, she returns the daggers.

See quotation 3

ACT 5

1 2 3 4 5

Watched by a Doctor and a Gentlewoman, she sleepwalks, trying to wash imagined blood from her hands. Later, her death is reported.

"Out, damned spot! out, I say!" (5.1)

4 Theme links: best quotation, one idea

THINK

Ambition

NO.

Guilt

NO.

Appearance and reality

NO.

Gender

NO. **5 Write an exam-style paragraph**

WRITE

10 marks

QUESTION How does Shakespeare present the change in Lady Macbeth from Act 1 to Act 5?

“ What's done cannot be undone.

ACT 5, SCENE 1

STARTERS

- At the start, Shakespeare presents her as ...
- This is clear when she says ...
- The word "..." suggests ...
- However, by Act 5 ...
- This links to the theme of ...