

Theme: Shakespeare's Villains **Text:** Extract from *Macbeth* (Act I Scene 3)

5	Macbeth [To BANQUO] Do you not hope your children shall be kings, When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me Promised no less to them?	<i>those</i> – the witches
10	BANQUO That trusted home Might yet enkindle you unto the crown, Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange: And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, The instruments of darkness tell us truths, Win us with honest trifles, to betray's In deepest consequence. Cousins, a word, I pray you.	<i>trusted home</i> - if you fully believe ... <i>enkindle</i> ...- give rise to the desire to become king <i>win ... harm</i> – in order to harm us
15	MACBETH [Aside] Two truths are told, As happy prologues to the swelling act Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen.	<i>honest trifles</i> – less important predictions <i>deepest consequence</i> – really important matters <i>cousins</i> : Banquo addresses Ross and Angus, who are – like Banquo – awaiting Macbeth's orders
20	[Aside] This supernatural soliciting Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill, Why hath it given me earnest of success, Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:	<i>swelling act</i> - [metaphor] <i>soliciting</i> – the promise of future pleasure
25	If good, why do I yield to that suggestion Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair And make my seated heart knock at my ribs, Against the use of nature? Present fears Are less than horrible imaginings:	<i>earnest</i> – assurance; advance payment <i>commencing</i> – beginning <i>yield</i> – give way (to an argument or influence) <i>horrid</i> – horrible; <i>doth</i> – does <i>seated</i> – fixed firmly in a place <i>use of nature</i> – natural behaviour
30	My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical, Shakes so my single state of man that function Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is But what is not.	<i>yet .. but fantastical</i> – at this moment only fantasy <i>shakes single state</i> – irritates me so much <i>function ... in surmise</i> – action is imprisoned by imagination
35	BANQUO Look, how our partner's rapt.	<i>rapt</i> – deeply moved/ absorbed
40	MACBETH [Aside] If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me, Without my stir.	<i>chance</i> – luck <i>stir</i> – movement, action
45	BANQUO New horrors come upon him, Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould But with the aid of use.	<i>cleave --- mould</i> – (clothes) fit the body <i>but ... use</i> – only after they have been worn for some time
50	MACBETH [Aside] Come what come may, Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.	<i>may ... day</i> – rhyming couplet (ending an important speech or soliloquy) <i>stay ... leisure</i> – we wait for your orders
50	MACBETH Give me your favour: my dull brain was wrought With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains Are register'd where every day I turn The leaf to read them. Let us toward the king.	<i>brain ...wrought</i> – forgotten things are on M's mind <i>pains</i> – efforts (to fulfill their duties)

Assignments:

- 1) To what extent is Macbeth characterized as a villain in this scene? Work closely on the text in your answer.
- 2) Where and why does Shakespeare use soliloquy in this scene?
- 3) Compare Macbeth – as we get to know him in this scene - to one other Shakespearean villain of your choice. Who fares better – who fares worse in your judgement? Give reasons in your answer.