

# Key Quotations: Macbeth.

How to use these:

Annotate them – look carefully at individual words and what they suggest; identify the techniques the writer has used.

Identify what these lines tell us about Macbeth. What do they reveal about his hamartia?

Identify how these lines link to the themes of the text.

Identify how these lines link to the writer's message.

**Key themes: AMBITION  
KINGSHIP/TYRANNY**

**POWER**

**GUILT**

**SUPERNATURAL**

**GENDER/MASCULINITY**

**"Fair is foul and foul is fair; hover through fog and filthy air" (A1,S1)**

**"with his brandished steel which smoked with bloody execution" (A1,S2)**

**"stars hide your fires; see not my black and deep desires" (A1,S4)**

**"Come you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts unsex me here and feel me from the crown to the toe top full of direst cruelty" (A1,S5)**

**"He is too full of the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way" (A1,S5)**

**"I was in most need of blessing and Amen stuck in my throat" (A2, S2)**

**"A little water clears us of this deed" (A2.S2)**

**"Will all great Neptune's ocean not wash the blood from my hand?No.." (A2.S2)**

**"My hands are of your colour but I shame to wear a heart so white" (A2.S2)**

**"Oh full of scorpions is my mind" (A3.S2)**

**"Will all the perfumes of Arabia not sweeten this little hand?" (A5.S1)**

**"Lay on Macduff and damned be him who first cries "Hold! Enough""(A5.S8)**

**"The dead butcher and his fiend like Queen" (A5,S8)**