

Macbeth Quote Bank

Quote	Who says it?	When?
"Fair is foul, and foul is fair"	Witches	Act 1 Scene 1
"Valour's minion" "Bellona's bridegroom"	Captain Ross	Act 1 Scene 2. It is interesting as Macbeth is compares to the assistant of a powerful woman. He is later influenced by other powerful women.
"So foul and fair a day I have not seen"	Macbeth	Act 1 Scene 3. This links Macbeth to the witches. It is as if he is already under their control.
"Glamis and Thane of Cawdor: The greatest is behind"	Macbeth (aside)	Act 1 Scene 3. He find out that he is Thane of Cawdor and starts to believe he will be King.
"Why do you dress me in borrowed robes?"	Macbeth	Act 1 Scene 3. When they first call him Thane of Cawdor, Macbeth doesn't believe them because there already is one. This also foreshadows the fact that Macbeth will end up in robes that are not his own.
"plant" "make thee full of growing"	Duncan	Act1 Scene 4. Duncan uses an extended metaphor to show that Macbeth will be become more powerful naturally.
"Let not light see my black and deep desires"	Macbeth	Act 1 Scene 4. Macbeth finds out that Malcolm stands in his way to the throne and sound determined to overcome this obstacle.

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"my dearest <u>partner</u> of greatness"	Macbeth to Lady Macbeth	At the start of the play in the letter.
"Yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness To catch the nearest way"	Lady Macbeth	In Act 1 Scene 5 (in her soliloquy. She fears that Macbeth is too nice to kill King Duncan.
"unsex me here"	Lady Macbeth	In the soliloquy in Act 1 Scene 5. She wants to be less of a woman.
"Look like th' innocent flower, But be the serpent under 't."	Lady Macbeth	When she tells him of the plan to kill Duncan.
"that we but teach Bloody instructions, which being taught, return To plague th' inventor"	Macbeth	During his soliloquy in Act 1 Scene 7. He doesn't want to kill the king because he believes he will be punished for violence.
"Golden opinions"	Macbeth	Act 1 Scene 7. He is talking about the fact that people think very highly of him.
When you durst do it, then you were a man"	Lady Macbeth	When she is persuading him to kill Duncan she questions his masculinity.
"our great quell"	Lady Macbeth	When she is convincing Macbeth to kill Duncan. "Quell" means murder but can also mean to satisfy something.

Quote	Who says it?	When?
"False face must hide what the false heart doth know"	Macbeth	Just before he kills King Duncan.
"Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going"	Macbeth to the dagger.	In his soliloquy in Act 2 Scene 1. He is saying that even though the dagger looks supernatural and like it is guiding him, it is directing him the way that he was already going.
"Sleep no more. Macbeth does murder sleep"	Macbeth thinks he hears someone shout this.	Act 2, just after he has killed Duncan. It links to the sailor that the witches talk about.
"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand?"	Macbeth	Act 2. After he has killed Duncan, he feels like his bloody hands will never be clean. The blood is a metaphor for guilt.
"A little water clears us of this deed"	Lady Macbeth	She says the blood is easily washed away. The contrasts with later in the play.
"There's daggers in men's smiles"	Donalbain	When he finds out that his father (Duncan) has been murdered.
"come fate into the list"	Macbeth	Just before he had Banquo killed. He is talking about how Banquo's fate is to have sons that are kings. He says he challenges fate to battle.

Quote	Who says it?	When?
"Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men"	Macbeth	When he is convincing the murderers to kill Banquo. He questions their masculinity.
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy. Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy"	Lady Macbeth	After the death of Duncan but before Banquo. She is saying that is better to be murdered than to murder and live in "doubtful joy". The oxymoron shows her fear and doubt in their actions.
"This is the very painting of your fear"	Lady Macbeth	She says this to Macbeth when he hallucinates the ghost of Banquo.
"blood will have blood"	Macbeth	After he has seen the ghost of Banquo.
"I am in blood Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more"	Macbeth	After he sees Banquo's ghost. He knows that he should stop murdering, but he has to continue to protect himself.
"Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights"	Lord	When he is hoping that God will help Malcolm to defeat Macbeth. It sounds like the Lord's prayer. As if he is praying for God's help to restore the natural order.
"none of woman born Shall harm Macbeth"	Apparition	When he goes to visit the witches later in the play. It gives him a false sense of security. All of the predictions have more than one meaning.
"Out damned spot"	Lady Macbeth	In Act 5 as she is sleepwalking. The metaphorical blood represents her guilt and it contrasts with earlier in the play when she says to Macbeth "a little water clears us of this deed".

Quote	Who says it?	When?
"Now does he feel His secret murders sticking on his hands."	Angus	As they prepare for battle against Macbeth. It links to both the theme of guilt and appearance and reality.
"drown the weeds."	Lennox	When they are preparing to fight against Macbeth. It is a very different plant metaphor from earlier in the play.
"Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts/Cannot once start me"	Macbeth	At the end of the play. Nothing evil can frighten him anymore.
"She should have died hereafter"	Macbeth	His cold reaction to Lady Macbeth's death. It contrasts with their earlier relationship.
"Life's but a walking shadow"	Macbeth	When he finds out that his wife is dead. He talks about how insignificant and short life is.
"Yet I will fight the last"	Macbeth	At the end when he realises that Macduff is not "woman born". He shows a glimpse of the brave warrior he once was.