

# Macbeth

## BIG IDEAS

01

### Ambition

**Excessive ambition leads to terrible consequences**

'Two truths are told as prologues to the swelling act'  
'Stars hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires'

02

### Power

**Power has the potential to be a corrupting influence**

'Thou play'st most foully for't'  
'O nation miserable, with an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter'd'

03

### Kingship

**Monarchs should be honourable and uphold moral principles**

'Besides, this Duncan hath borne his faculties so meek'  
'O Scotland, Scotland!'

04

### Guilt

**Guilt is a powerful and enduring form of punishment**

'Macbeth shall sleep no more'  
'Out damned spot, out I say!'

05

### Supernatural

**Supernatural influences should be treated with caution**

'To win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths'  
'Filthy hags, why do you show me this?'

06

### Appearances

**Appearances can be deceptive and trust is easy to misplace**

'There's no art to finding the mind's construction in the face'  
'Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under't'

