

Macbeth

Macbeth is Thane (Lord) of Glamis, who later becomes Thane of Cawdor and then King of Scotland. He is the main character, but is not a hero because of his weakness, cruelty, and greed. Although Macbeth says that he wouldn't agree to kill King Duncan, his decision does not last long. He is fierce, strong, and confident in battle, but at home he quickly gives in to his wife's arguments and kills Duncan. Despite his many kills on the battlefield, Macbeth becomes too guilty and afraid to frame Duncan's servants according to the plan, so Lady Macbeth is the one who must complete the crime. He has a strong desire for power and a very weak will. This is why Lady Macbeth was able to convince him so easily to kill Duncan, and why he keeps killing people throughout the play. Macbeth remains King of Scotland until he is killed in battle by Macduff.

Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth becomes Queen of Scotland after the murder of King Duncan. She makes up for Macbeth's uncertainties by her bloodthirsty greed for power and wealth. Her cruelty and violence makes her into the opposite of a motherly character. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband powerfully to follow through with his plans to kill Duncan. When Macbeth was too afraid to frame the servants for Duncan's murder, it is Lady Macbeth who has to plant the evidence on them so they will take the blame. However, her guilt eventually leads to nightmares that haunt her and cause her to lose her mind. One night in her sleep, she wanders the castle and confesses to the doctor that she and Macbeth killed Duncan. She is most famous for her cruelty and eventual madness.

Macduff

Macduff plays the role of hero in the play, even though he is not the main character. He represents goodness and loyalty to the truth while the rest of the world in the play seems dark and evil. He is a Scottish nobleman who finds the body of King Duncan after Macbeth murdered him. Macduff questions Macbeth's cruel kingship and refuses to recognize him as king. Macduff follows Malcolm, one of Duncan's sons, to England, where he shows his true faithfulness to Scotland. He convinces Malcolm to gather an army to march against Macbeth and claim the kingdom back since it rightfully belongs to him. Macduff slays Macbeth in a duel and, instead of taking the crown for himself, returns the throne to Malcolm.

Doctor

The doctor is called by Lady Macbeth's servants after she becomes Queen of Scotland. When she begins to have nightmares from her guilt over King Duncan's murder, her servants ask the doctor to watch and see if there is any way to help her. Soon, he sees Lady Macbeth sleepwalk and hears her talk in her sleep. She says things that reveal that she helped to kill Duncan with Macbeth. However, the doctor cannot do anything except take notes and advise the servants to make sure that Lady Macbeth doesn't harm herself. At the end of the play, the doctor says that if he left Macbeth's castle, he would never come back again, no matter how much money he was offered.