

English 11

[Teacher's name]

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Teacher: We are finishing Macbeth today. Come sign up. This is your last chance to read. Page 191.

We are going to finish Macbeth today which means that tomorrow and Thursday will be your "in-class essay." We will talk about how to choose your topic and how to write an essay to get a 6 out of 6.

Where we left off last, there were thousands and thousands of people marching on Macbeth's castle in Scotland.

[Student reading: Macbeth: don't bring me anymore reports ...]

Teacher: Macbeth is clearly suffering from something. What character flaw does he have? In Shakespearean tragedies, the main character often has a tragic flaw. Macbeth is exhibiting it right now. What is it?

Student: Over confidence.

Teacher: Yes because the witches told him that he would not be overtaken unless Birnam Wood moved.

So he is mocking the messenger that is telling him that he is about to die. He calls him milk face.

[Student reading: continues]

Teacher: What are the visions that Lady Macbeth is having?

Student: The blood on her hands.

[Student reading: continues]

Teacher: What was the point of that scene? We talked about one thing. To show Macbeth's over-confidence. What else? Macbeth's attention is everywhere. It is showing that Macbeth has really lost his mind at this point.

Malcom is the son of Duncan. Then we have old Siward and his son. We know that this is the resistance or the revolution. They are marching on Macbeth.

[Various students reading: continues]

Deduction one issue solved. The first is moving to the castle because they are now going to break branches off trees to hide behind.

Reading - continues

Teacher: Macbeth is with Seyton and soldiers.

Reading - continues

Teacher: His wife just died and this is how he reacts to the news. He says she would have died some time. Clearly Macbeth is not thinking straight.

We are going to pause there one moment. I have a clip of Homer Simpson doing this soliloquy. It is one of the most popular soliloquies of the play.

Video: playing.

Teacher: What is Macbeth talking about there? "Out, out brief candle ..... hour upon the stage." What is the brief candle? It is a metaphor.

Student: Life.

Teacher: Yes. He is not valuing life right now. He has come to the point where life doesn't matter to him. This is dangerous for him and the people around him.

Reading - continues

Teacher: Again, ready to die. Why is Macbeth just

locking himself in the castle?

Student: Too many of his soldiers have switched sides.

Teacher: So his best plan is to lock the castle walls and just wait them out until they starve to death. It is a pretty poor plan that he has.

Reading - continues

Act 5 scene VII

Teacher: I am not sure about the remains but for this case. If they are about to lose a battle, then they commit suicide. Macbeth says that he will not do it. What would be one of the reasons he wouldn't do it?

Student: Maybe he thinks he will not die.

Teacher: Yes or maybe he is a coward and doesn't want to face death.

So McDuff was born from a woman but not naturally. It was a C-section.

Teacher: What do we know that Siward does not know?

Student: His son died.

Teacher: He says that this battle didn't cost them that much but he doesn't know that his son was killed. This

is called dramatic irony because we as the audience know it but he doesn't.

Why did he ask if his wounds were on his front?

Student: It showed he died fighting.

Teacher: Yes in Scotland that was something to be proud of.

Teacher: Did you study Romeo and Juliet? Do you remember what happened to Romeo's mom? At the end of the play it was mentioned that she died from heartache. It is like this for Lady Macbeth. It is kind of an off mentioned side note at the end of the play. One reason why this was done was because in Shakespeare's time there would have been one actor acting more than one part. So they would just choose to kill one character off and just talk about them later.

Get any assignments into me as soon as you can and I will have them marked and back to you by Friday. I will put up marks at some point later this week.

This is not part of the actual play but what are they showing?

Student: The original letter from Macbeth.

Teacher: Yes. She is reading the letter that Macbeth send to her telling her of meeting the witches and what they told him. It shows Lady Macbeth descending into madness.

Video - continues

Teacher: This is not part of the play, but they are trying to show that there were one or two still loyal to Macbeth but there are also people trying to escape the castle before it is attacked. The one guy that tried to stand up against the others leaving, too an arrow to the forehead.

Video - continues

Teacher: Did anyone picture the last battle scene like that?

Student: No. It was longer.

Student: I thought the fight was a lot of swinging.

Teacher: Back then the armor was heavy so fighting was pretty clumsy.

The modern version has the last battle scene outside the castle. It is just with McDuff and without everyone watching.

What did the director choose to end with the witches?  
Who was that last character?

We didn't know but the director was trying to show that the witches were still at it and that it would happen all over again.

We will watch the end of the modern version because we have a few minutes more before the end of the class.  
We are watching from the scene where Macbeth finds out his wife is dead.

Video: playing.

Teacher: This one is pretty gruesome. It is more interesting: not quite as funny as the other battle scene. A little darker. That is it. Macbeth is over. Yeah!  
Put your books on the side shelf.