

# Macbeth

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

**Writing Outcome:**  
**Write a modern version**  
**of a scene from**  
***Macbeth*, using**  
**techniques by modern**  
**day writers.**

# Macbeth

## Key Writing Skills



- Use metaphor, simile and personification.
- Use a range of authorial techniques to achieve specific effects.
- Introduce and develop characters through blending action, dialogue and description within sentences and paragraphs.
- Use semi-colons to link two clauses of equal weight.
- Use ellipsis to link ideas between paragraphs.

Today, we are focussing on using metaphor, simile and personification in our writing.

L.O. To create effective imagery using similes, metaphors and effective noun phrases.

## Imagery

It was towards evening. There was thunder in the air and little lightnings, like bright adders, wriggled across the sky. Here and there on the open heath naked trees seemed to hold up their hands in fear and dismay; and the three old women crouched and waited, still as stones. Presently there came a rolling and a rattling, as if a small thunder had lost its way and was wandering in the dark. The three old women nodded.

Can you spot the imagery?

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## Imagery

**Similes and metaphors compare one thing to another.**

Which is a simile? Metaphor? What is the difference?

Ancient hags with backs hooped like question marks...

Three old women crouched and waited, still as stones.

A soldier from the battlefield, a gaudy, staggering patchwork of blood and gashes...

...her red hair blazed, as if there was a furnace in her head.

What could we describe in each chunk?

Chunk	Event	Lines/phrases from the original text	What to describe	Similes, metaphors, effective adjectives and noun phrases
1				
2				
3				

Chunk	Event	Lines/phrases from the original text	What to describe
1	Macbeth and Lady Macbeth welcome the lords to the banquet.	M: Sit down. At first and last, the hearty welcome. LM: For my heart speaks they are welcome. humble host, drink a measure the table round	Atmosphere, banquet, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth
2	Murderer at back door tells Macbeth Banquo is dead but Fleance has escaped.	M: There's blood upon thy face. Mur: 'Tis Banquo's then. M: Is he dispatched? Mur: My lord, his throat is cut.	Murderer
3	Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost at the table.	M: Thou canst not say I did it; never shake thy gory locks at me.	Banquo's ghost, Macbeth's face
4	Lady Macbeth makes excuses for her husband's odd behaviour.	R: Gentlemen rise. His highness is not well. LM: Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often thus. Pray you keep seat.	Lady Macbeth's reaction
5	Macbeth continues to talk to Banquo's ghost; haunted.	M: Avaunt, and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee! Thy blood is cold. M: Hence horrible shadow! Unreal mockery, hence!	Macbeth's behaviour
6	Lady Macbeth sends the lords home as her husband is unwell.	R: What sights, my lord? LM: I pray you speak not; he grows worse and worse. Question enrages him. At once good night.	Atmosphere

What could we describe in each chunk?

These are Miss Terrell's ideas.

We are now going to create imagery and effective noun phrases for each chunk, on the next few pages.



L.O. To create effective imagery using similes, metaphors and effective noun phrases.

## Imagery

Macbeth! A giant of fury and courage, his sword arm whirling and beating like a windmill as he fought for his king against the treacherous enemies who sought to overturn the state.



Watch Miss Terrell's tutorial video.



What could we compare the ... to?



### Top Tips!

Identify the key noun or thing that you want to describe.

Think about what comparison might help the reader to imagine it.



Chunk	Event	Lines/phrases from the original text	What to describe	Similes, metaphors, effective adjectives and noun phrases
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Add your imagery ideas, and any noun phrases with effective adjectives to your plan.