

Macbeth Performance Worksheet

Consider the following while screening the made-for-TV performance. Respond to the following questions during and/or after viewing the. Use the spaces provided. *Respond completely, as expected, for full credit.*

To Discuss: First Impressions

1. What did you think of the production? Did you like it – if so, why? If not, why not? *Be specific.*
2. How did it compare to what you expected to see?
3. Did anything surprise you?

To Discuss: Taking Macbeth Out of Scotland

Macbeth is based on events that occurred in 11th-century Scotland. But in the theater, directors are free to re-interpret the play by setting the action in other countries and other eras. In fact, one of the signs of Shakespeare's enduring artistic value is the fact that his plays continue to have relevance and meaning for today's world. How would you characterize the time and place chosen for this production? Respond specifically to these questions:

1. In what time period does this production appear to be set?
2. What clues do you have that signal the time period?
3. How did the costumes, sets, and props contribute to your understanding of the time period?
4. Does this production appear to be set in a specific country?
5. Does it remind you of other events, time periods, or locations in history?
6. Why do you think the director chose this setting?

When answering these questions, consider the effect of these specific details within the production:

- *The costumes of the witches*
- *The military-style uniforms worn by the various generals and soldiers*
- *The use of newsreel film*
- *The depiction of the execution of the Thane of Cawdor*
- *The large portrait of Macbeth that appears after he becomes king*
- *The montage of executions*
- *The depiction of Banquo's murder*

Classroom Activity: A Matter of Character

When taking Shakespeare from the page to the stage, directors must make many choices, and work with actors to bring characters to life. To uncover some of the decisions about character in this production of *Macbeth*, work with students to fill out the details in the Character Table. Come up with short descriptions that apply to each of these aspects of the characters as they appear in this production.

CHARACTER	AGE/APPEARANCE	COSTUME	PERSONALITY/ATTITUDE	CHANGES FROM ORIGINAL PLAY
Macbeth				
Lady Macbeth				
Witches				
Duncan				
Banquo				
Macduff				
Lady Macduff				
Rosse				
Porter				