



The Grammardog Guide to The Tragedy of Macbeth by William Shakespeare

All quizzes use sentences from the play.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.

About Grammardog

Grammardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH by William Shakespeare

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object

i.o. = indirect object

p.n. = predicate nominative

o.p. = object of preposition

p.a. = predicate adjective

ACT I

- _____1.** Yet do I fear thy nature; it is too full o' th' milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way.
- _____2.** Thou wouldst be great, art not without ambition, but without the illness should attend it.
- _____3.** The love that follows us sometime is our trouble, which still we thank as love.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial

ger = gerund

inf = infinitive

appos = appositive

prep = prepositional

ACT I

- _____1.** Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition; nor would we deign him burial of his men till he disbursed, at Saint Colme's Inch, ten thousand dollars to our general use.
- _____2.** Present fears are less than horrible imaginings.
- _____3.** My plenteous joys, wanton in fullness, seek to hide themselves in drops of sorrow.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

o = onomatopoeia

h = hyperbole

ACT I

- _____1.** Doubtful it stood, as two spent swimmers, that do cling together and choke their art.
- _____2.** Into the air, and what seemed corporal melted as breath into the wind.
- _____3.** Your face, my Thane, is as a book where men may read strange matters.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH by William Shakespeare

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS

Identify the allusions in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. folklore/superstition

ACT I

1. Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds, or memorize another Golgotha, I cannot tell.
2. But ‘tis strange: and oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray ‘s in deepest consequence.
3. Besides, this Duncan hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been so clear in his great office, that his virtues will plead like angels . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Lady Macbeth: The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here.
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood,
Stop up th’ access and passage to remorse
That no compunctions visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
Th’ effect and it! Come to my woman’s breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murd’ring ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature’s mischief! Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunkest smoke of hell,
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry “Hold, hold!” (I, v, 38-54)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1** The raven himself is hoarse
- 2** That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
- 3** Under my battlements. Come, you spirits

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- 4 That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here.
- 5 And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
- 6 Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood,
- 7 Stop up th' access and passage to remorse
- 8 That no compunctions visitings of nature
- 9 Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
- 10 Th' effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
- 11 And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers,
- 12 Wherever in your sightless substances
- 13 You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
- 14 And pall thee in the dunkest smoke of hell,
- 15 That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
- 16 Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
- 17 To cry "Hold, hold!"

- ____ 1. Lady Macbeth calls on ALL of the following forces of evil EXCEPT . . .
a. spirits b. night c. God
- ____ 2. The underlined words in Line 9 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ____ 3. The underlined words in Line 11 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme

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