

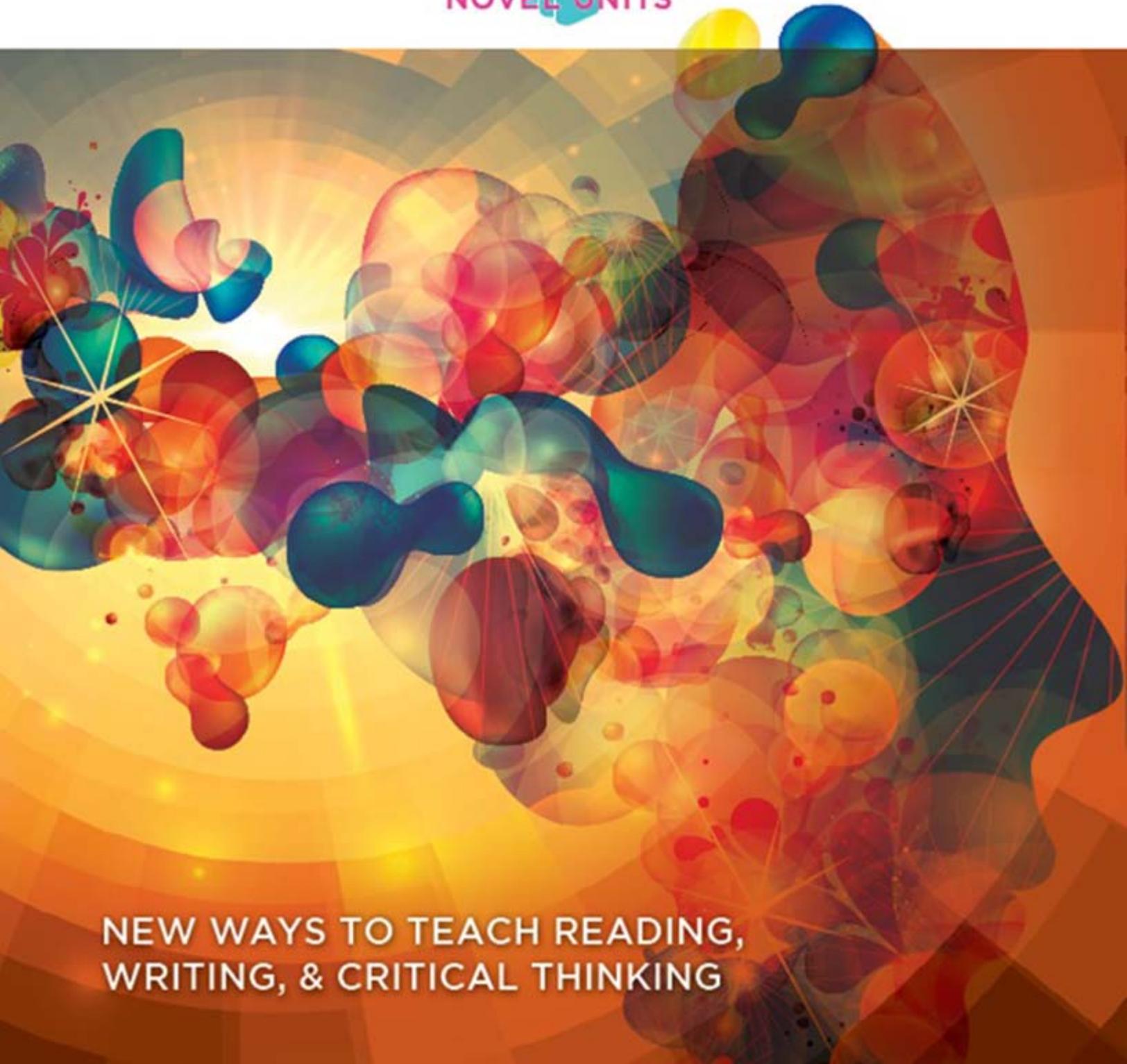
Teacher Guide

Grades 9–12

Macbeth

William Shakespeare

NOVEL UNITS[®]



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MACBETH

by
William Shakespeare

Teacher Guide

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Note

The text used to prepare this guide was the softcover Pelican Shakespeare published by The Penguin Group, edited by Alfred Harbage, ©1956, 1971 by Penguin Books; 1984 by Viking Penguin. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this play for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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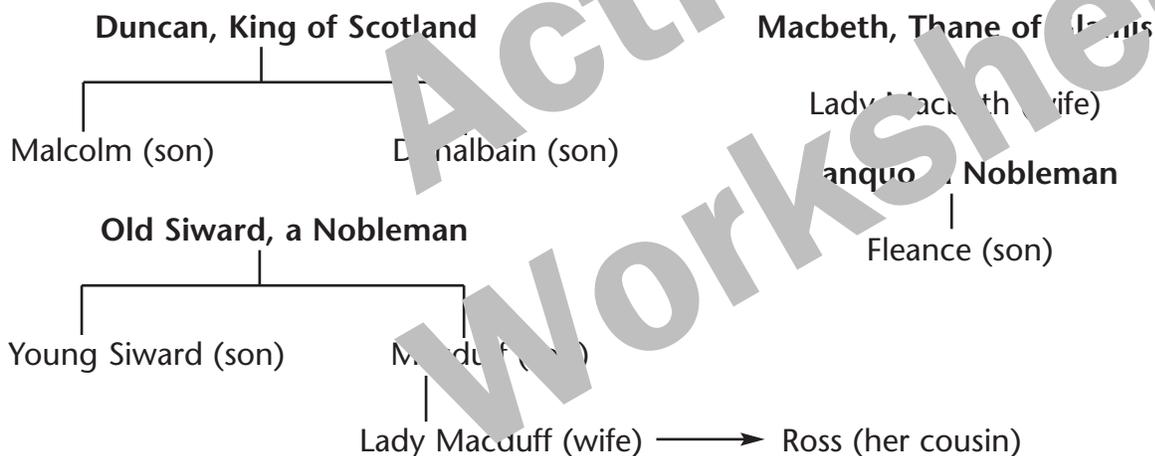
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It will be helpful to students' understanding of the play if they can easily glance at a character chart during the reading. Before reading a scene where a new character is introduced, have students find on the charts his or her name, description, and relationship to other characters. A suggested format follows.

Main Characters in *Macbeth*

Character Name/Description:	Introduced in:	
	Act	Scene
The Three Witches (also called "Ward Sisters")	I	i
Duncan, King of Scotland, Macbeth's cousin	I	ii
Malcolm, elder son of Duncan	I	ii
Ross, Scottish nobleman (Thane of Ross)	I	ii
Macbeth, Thane (lord) of Glamis, Captain in King's Army	I	iii
Banquo, Scottish nobleman, Captain, friend of Macbeth	I	iii
Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's wife	I	v
Fleance, son of Banquo	II	i
Macduff, Scottish nobleman	II	iii
Donalbain, younger son of Duncan	II	iii
Lennox, Scottish nobleman	II	iii
Murderers	III	i
Hecate, Queen of the Witches	IV	i
Lady Macduff	V	ii
Old Siward, Macduff's father	V	iv
Young Siward, Macduff's brother	V	viii

Relationships:



ACT V

Vocabulary

Scene i

gentlewoman
guise
charged
annoyance
mated

Scene ii

alarm
faith-breach
sickly weal
sovereign power

Scene iii

epicures
patch
moe
skirr
physic
cast

Scene iv

pristine
ingratitude
censures
soldiership

Scene v

famine
ague
fellow
disposal treatise

Scene vi

screens
harbingers

Scene vii

tied me to a stake
lens
d
gently rend'ed

Scene viii

Roman fool
intrenchant
vulnerable crests
baited
knell
knolled
kingdom's pearl
kinsmen

Questions for Discussion

Scene i

1. Why has the doctor been called to Dunsinane? (to attend Lady Macbeth, who is *waking in his sleep*.)
2. What motion does Lady Macbeth make continuously? (She rubs her hands together, as if *washing them*.)
3. In your own words, what is the doctor's evaluation of Lady Macbeth's problem? (She is suffering from *melancholy*, but only God can help her with *by purging her crimes*.)

Scene ii

1. Who are Menteith, Caithness, and Angus? (Scottish noblemen who have joined the others in the fight against Macbeth.)
2. Why is it significant that Macbeth is now referred to as a tyrant? (We realize how much he is detested by his *countrymen*.) Does he have the support of those he commands? (Not really—they have no heart for fighting, but *an aid* not to.)
3. What does the clothing imagery mean ("Now does he put his title/ Hang loose about him...")? (Macbeth is not worthy of the *role* he has assumed.)

Scene iii

1. What reports does the servant bring Macbeth, or try to? (He tells him there are ten thousand English soldiers *advancing* toward Dunsinane.)
2. Why does Macbeth make light of the servant's reports? (He has put his faith in the *prophecies* of the apparitions, and feels *invincible*.)

Sample frameworks

