

Student Exemplar: Kade’s Analyst Assignment on Macbeth

Use the following checklist to ensure you have completed the assignments entirely:

I have selected the following essential question with this role:

☐ How important is it to pursue our passions?
☒ What does it mean to “live well”?

I have confirmed that . . .

☒ My assignment considers the essential question through the entire text.
☒ I have created an original text.

7.3 Kade’s Exemplar: Analyst Assignment

Essential Question: What does it mean to “live well”?
A Review of Macbeth



©Thinkstock

Character	Quotation	Situation that Prompted the Quotation	Significance of the Quotation
M A C B E T H	"This supernatural soliciting cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill, why hath it given me earnest of success, commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor. If good, why do I yield to that suggestion whose horrid image doth unfix my hair and make my seated heart knock at my ribs, against the use of nature" (I, iii, 142- 149)?	Macbeth and Banquo had just finished a battle defeating the Norweyan troops. On their way home they encountered three witches who made three prophecies to Macbeth. Ross had just informed Macbeth that he was to be Thane of Cawdor as the previous Thane had been executed for treason.	The significance of this quote is built into the quote. The witches prophesied that he would be Thane of Cawdor and King. One had come true, and now Macbeth was excited about the possibility of being king. This quote is important, because it sets him up for making plans for how to be King. He thinks his only option of being King is to kill the present King.

Remember, quote is a verb, quotation is a noun. You should use ‘quotation’ here. Review and revise throughout your response.

You have outlined the context for the quotation perfectly, Kade! Good work!

Student Exemplar: Kade's 7.3 Analyst Assignment on *Macbeth* (continued)

M A C B E T H	"But wherefore could I not pronounce 'Amen'? I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen' stuck in my throat" (II, ii, 39-40).	Macbeth had just murdered King Duncan and the guards were stirring and talking in their sleep. The guards gave a quick prayer but Macbeth could not say "Amen."	The significance of this episode is that this is a graphic reminder that with the act of killing Duncan, Macbeth is eternally damned. There is no salvation for him and as such he could not then pronounce the "Amen." He recognizes the consequences of his actions immediately.	How does this moment connect to the idea of 'living well'? Be really specific when you make this connection. For example, you could say, "In securing himself a royal life, he has committed his soul to Hell for eternity."
	"Upon my head they place a fruitless crown and put a barren sceptre in my gripe" (III, i, 66-67).	The context of this quote is that Macbeth has heard Banquo's sons will be kings, but he does not have sons who will be king. As a result, in order for Banquo's sons to be stymied, he is motivated to make decisive plans to murder Banquo.	Macbeth has heard from the witches that Banquo's sons will be kings. So, he is bemoaning the fact that he murdered King Duncan, took the blame and the shame for that act so that Banquo's sons could be the benefactors of this deed. He wants to keep that from happening.	To whom is 'he' referring in this sentence? Be sure to be extra clear when you use "he" when you have two men in the sentence.
	"My way of life is fallen into the sere, the yellow leaf, and that which should accompany old age, as honour, love, obedience, troops of friends, I must not look to have. But, in their stead, curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honour, breath, which the poor heart would fain deny and dare not" (V, iii, 25-31).	The quote is at the end of the play as Macbeth sees Birnam Wood come to Dunsinane. He is getting ready to do battle once again and sees his "supporters" fighting on his behalf with reluctance.	The significance of this quote is that where his hopes and dreams of being King were realized, his quality of life was not enhanced. In fact he realized that everything that he had gained as King was useless, because the things that count are honour, loyalty, friendship and family.	This is really a restatement of your comments about the context for the quotation. Instead, comment on the actions that resulted, and connect that to the essential question. Perfect! Nice clear connection to the essential question! I would add a colon here to introduce your list. You have done well in drawing upon quotations from the entire play. Good work.

Student Exemplar: Kade's 7.3 Analyst Assignment on *Macbeth* (continued)

Character	Quotation	Situation that Prompted the Quotation	Significance of the Quotation
M A C D U F F	"Fair is foul, and foul is fair"(I, i, 11)	This quote sets the stage for the play. The witches are preparing to meet with Macbeth and they are deliberately and intentionally going to be leading him along.	The significance of this quote is that the reader senses that the entire play is showing that what appears to be good, isn't and what seems to be bad, isn't. The witches are setting Macbeth up.
	"Confusion now hath made his masterpiece! Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope the Lord's anointed temple and stole thence the life of the building" (II, iii, 67-70).	Macduff has just discovered Duncan's body. Leaving Duncan's bedchamber, Macduff wakes everyone up and announces the deed to everyone.	Macduff demonstrates here the unashamed loyalty that he has for Duncan. His love for his King is <u>seen</u> in his reaction to the killing; he recognizes Duncan is God's appointed representative.
	"Thy royal father was a most sainted King. The queen that bore thee, was oftener upon her knees than on her feet; she died every day she lived"(IV iii, 121-124).	Macduff has travelled to England to give his loyalty to Malcolm, the son of Duncan and the rightful heir to the throne. Macduff is extolling the virtues of Malcolm's parents.	The significance here is that Macduff is pledging allegiance to Malcolm, but Malcolm is also testing the truth of Macduff's intentions.
	"Wear thou thy wrongs. The title is affeered. Fare thee well, Lord. I would not be the villain that thou thinkest for the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp and the rich East to boot" (IV, iii, 38-42).	Macduff is with Malcolm in England and is stating that Malcolm's right to the throne is legally confirmed and that he (Macduff) would not take all of Scotland and all of the East illegally.	This quote articulates how passionate Macduff is to show allegiance to Malcolm. He would not covet the throne for all the riches in the world if he had to do it by illegal and immoral means.

I'm confused. Did you mean this row to go in the Macbeth chart? How does this reveal Macduff's character?

seen

I think this detail should appear in the context column, because his speech is in response to Malcolm's testing of his honour.

Remember to place a comma between the Act and the scene number (IV, iii, 121-124).

Right! This also develops Macduff as a character foil to Macbeth, because the contrast emphasizes Macbeth's evil actions.

Student Exemplar: Kade’s 7.3 Analyst Assignment on *Macbeth* (continued)

M A C D U F F	<i>"He has no children. - All my pretty ones? Did you say all? O Hell-kite! All? What, all my pretty chickens and their dam at one fell swoop" (IV, iii, 248-251)?</i>	<i>Ross has just come to England and informs Macduff of the murder of his family and servants and entire household.</i>	<i>Macduff is in genuine distress because of his love for his family. This is in stark contrast to Macbeth's response to the death of his wife and the people that he has killed. Love and honour motivate Macduff.</i>	<i>To be fair to Macbeth, he is under attack when he learns of his wife's death, and he is dealing with the realization that all has been for nothing. With that said, this is a good example of Macduff's perspective of what it means to "live well," by focusing on one's values.</i>
	<i>"Then yield thee, coward, and live to be the show and gaze of the time. We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are, painted upon a pole and underwrit, 'Here may you see the tyrant'" (V, viii, 27 - 31).</i>	<i>Macduff encounters Macbeth in their final battle and Macbeth has indicated he doesn't want to fight Macduff. Macduff then states these lines, which then initiates the battle, because Macbeth will not give up.</i>	<i>Macbeth realizes that he doesn't have a hope of surviving but will fight to the bitter end. He will not be called a coward. The significance is that for his guilt to be expunged, Macduff will need to kill Macbeth so that there is no doubt that the evil in Scotland has been taken care of for all time and that life can get back to what it should be.</i>	

Student Exemplar: Kade's 7.3 Analyst Assignment on *Macbeth* (continued)

Summary

What does it mean to "live well" in the context of *Macbeth*? Two lifestyles are dramatically compared and each shows one side of the coin. Living well means to live with honour. *Macbeth* is described as wearing clothes that are too big for him. "Now does he feel his title hang loose about him, like a giant's robe upon a dwarfish thief" (V, ii, 23 - 25). He is a hardened warrior, but he does not comfortably wear the robes of leadership. Malcolm, on the other hand, is described as pure and inspires other noblemen like Macduff and Ross to follow him into battle for something that is pure, noble, and honourable.



©Thinkstock

From the beginning when *Macbeth* is given the title of Thane of Cawdor (lands taken from a past traitor to the king), the reader is forewarned that the same fate could end *Macbeth*'s life. It does. Living well is to not hear the curses under the breaths of the "loyal" subjects. Fear is not a characteristic of living well, and as the play draws to a conclusion, it seems like a breath of fresh air stirs the nation to new excitement and joy. Living well is to have nature follow its normal course; to disrupt the natural flow as *Macbeth* did, resulted in nature going against itself.

It is interesting that you chose the word "fear" here. In what ways does fear play a role in *Macbeth* or Macduff's development?

Macbeth is led down the trail of broken hearts and lives and finally comes to the realization that the witches have been toying with him and have ruined his life, his honour, his reputation, his family, his wife, and pretty well everything that he ever had that was good and decent and noble.

I see where you're going with this statement. Try to break it up into two sentences to be more effective.

The message of living well in *Macbeth*'s time is clear: Do that which is noble, honourable, and decent, and your life will be rich, productive, and fulfilling.