

Name _____



Love and Power

At the beginning of *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth and her husband share a strong and trusting relationship. When Macbeth learns from the witches that he will become king, he writes a letter to Lady Macbeth, excited to tell her the news. She immediately believes in the prophecy and wants to help Macbeth achieve his destiny. But she also worries that he is too kind to take the throne by force.

When King Duncan visits their castle, Lady Macbeth urges Macbeth to act. She questions his courage and tells him that to be truly powerful, he must take what he wants. Encouraged by her words, Macbeth kills the king. But something changes after this moment—Macbeth is overwhelmed with guilt, while Lady Macbeth tries to stay strong for him. She tells him to forget what they have done and move forward. However, as Macbeth becomes more obsessed with power, he begins to shut Lady Macbeth out of his plans.

At first, Lady Macbeth was the one in control, but soon, Macbeth starts making decisions without her. He orders Banquo and his son to be killed, but he does not tell Lady Macbeth. Instead of turning to his wife for guidance, he visits the witches again to hear more prophecies. He becomes cruel and paranoid, seeing threats everywhere. Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth, once confident and commanding, begins to change.

She starts sleepwalking, whispering about the blood on her hands that will not wash away. She relives the night they killed Duncan, revealing her guilt. She, who once told Macbeth to be strong, is now overwhelmed with regret. Macbeth, who once depended on her, barely notices her suffering. He is too focused on protecting his throne.

By the end of the play, their relationship is completely broken. Lady Macbeth dies, and Macbeth barely reacts, saying that life is meaningless. He has lost the person who once guided him, and he faces his enemies alone.

The love and trust that once connected Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are destroyed by their thirst for power. In the end, their ambition did not bring them happiness—it only led to fear, loneliness, and destruction.