

Name _____



Fatal Ambition

Macbeth was once a brave and noble warrior. He fought for Scotland, winning battles and earning the trust of King Duncan. But when three mysterious witches told him that he would one day be king, everything changed. Their words planted a dangerous idea in his mind—one that he could not ignore.

At first, Macbeth was unsure. He did not want to harm King Duncan, but his wife, Lady Macbeth, convinced him that he had to take action. “Are you a man?” she asked, questioning his courage. Determined to prove himself, Macbeth killed Duncan and took the throne. But instead of feeling powerful, he felt afraid. He worried that someone would try to take his crown.

Macbeth’s biggest flaw was his ambition—his unstoppable desire for power. He was not satisfied with just being king. When the witches predicted that Banquo’s children would rule after him, Macbeth felt threatened. He ordered Banquo and his son to be killed, but Banquo’s son escaped. This made Macbeth even more paranoid. He believed that anyone who challenged him had to be removed. He sent soldiers to attack Macduff’s family, an act of cruelty that made people turn against him.

As Macbeth became more ruthless, Lady Macbeth changed, too. Once strong and confident, she now felt overwhelmed with guilt. She began sleepwalking, rubbing her hands as if trying to clean them, whispering about the blood she could not wash away. But Macbeth, blinded by ambition, barely noticed.

By the time Macbeth realized his mistake, it was too late. Macduff and an army came to defeat him. The witches had tricked him with riddles, making him believe he was unbeatable. In the end, Macbeth fell in battle, his ambition leading to his downfall.

Shakespeare’s Macbeth teaches us that unchecked ambition can be dangerous. If Macbeth had been patient, he might have ruled wisely. Instead, his hunger for power led him to make terrible choices. His tragic flaw—his ambition—destroyed him.