**Macbeth Overview**

**Macbeth Background**

• Based on a true story from Scotland – Macbeth is based off the *real* Macbeth!

• Written in 1606 in England for King James who was obsessed with witches. He even wrote a book on how to defeat them. Yep. *Real* King. *Real* witch hunter.

• The character Banquo, Macbeth’s buddy, was actually in on the murder of Duncan, but because King James was a Banquo descendent, Shakespeare made the character more favorable

• It is a “cursed” play - productions of the play have been plagued with accidents and deaths. It often is called “*The Scottish Play*” for fear that uttering “*Macbeth*” will bring on misfortune. OooOOOoooOOoo…

**Literary Terms/Devices *(Refer to these when completing journal entries)***

Foreshadow(ing): A warning or indication of a future event

**Note:** Keep your ears open for the witches predictions

Dramatic Irony: When the full significance of a character's words or actions are clear to the audience or reader, yet unknown to the character.

**Note:** Keep in mind the plotting and scheming of Macbeth and his Lady, and when the other characters on stage know nothing about it

Allusion: A brief reference to something in the play that the reader is expected to know (in Shakespeare, often mythological or biblical)

**Note**: Whenever you see a capitalized name that *is not* a character in the play, it is most likely an allusion

Motif: An idea or symbol that is repeated throughout the play

**A few motifs in *Macbeth*:** Blood, Weather (or Nature), Violence, Hallucinations, Fate (vs. Free Will), Femininity, Masculinity

Theme: Fundamental or universal ideas presented in the play

**A few themes in *Macbeth*:** Power corrupts, Superstitions influence human behavior, Violence begets violence, Manhood can only be expressed through domination, It is our choices that define our fate

**While viewing the film**

Use the provided Cornell Notes pages to keep track of your thoughts

On the right side: Write about events you think are important, references that stick out, or anything else you consider interesting or “note worthy”. This is *your* commentary.

On the left side: Use the Lit Terms/Devices from above to “match up” to your notes. Did you find a theme? A moment of dramatic irony? Also, ask questions! Use your DOK chart to help you formulate future discussion questions.