

**Macbeth** Heroes and Villains in *Macbeth*

What makes a hero heroic? What makes a villain villainous? Who are the heroes in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*? Who are the villains? Are there characters in the play who start as one and end up as the other? Use this worksheet to explore the answers to these questions.

In the chart below, list as many traits as you can think of that make a hero heroic and a villain villainous.

Remember: A trait can be defined as a quality or characteristic that distinguishes an individual.

Heroic Traits	Villainous Traits
<i>honorable</i> <i>loyal</i> <i>brave</i>	<i>selfish</i> <i>deceitful</i>

Now apply the traits you recorded to each of the following characters. Be sure to record the trait in the proper column. You can assign a single trait to more than one character. Update this chart as you read *Macbeth*. Take note of whether a character's traits change over the course of the play.

Character	Heroic Traits	Villainous Traits
Macbeth	<i>honorable, loyal, brave</i>	<i>selfish, deceitful</i>
Lady Macbeth		
Duncan		
Banquo		
Macduff		
Malcolm		

After you've read the play and completed your charts, review your responses. Answer these questions: Is there a hero in *Macbeth*? If so, who is that hero? If not, why?

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).