

Macbeth, Macduff & Banquo

At the beginning of the play, Macbeth, Macduff and Banquo seem very similar to each other. All three of them are noble and brave men who loyally fight for their king. They have ambitions, but don't try to fulfill them at all costs. So in the beginning, their position is the same and only at the moment when the witches appear, the reader starts to make out differences in their characters. While Banquo stays modest and does not act upon the witches' prophecy, Macbeth shows how greedy and indiscriminate he can be prodded by his wife. While Banquo remains loyal to the king, Macbeth doesn't think too long before murdering everybody who stands between him and the throne. I think Macduff is the only one really faithful to the throne, because Macduff also turns on Macbeth when he developpes into a tyrant. But other than Macbeth, Macduff doesn't do that to be king himself, but out of his love for Scotland and to release the people from this tyranny and to set the rightful king on the throne, Malcolm. You can see that he really wants a king as good as Duncan to reign Scotland when Malcolm tests him. What they do may be ~~the~~ similar, but their motives ~~change~~ ~~the~~ change our perception on their actions.

Even if Macbeth developpes into a tyrant in the course of the play, he is not the typical villain you may find in books. In fact, I don't think Shakespeare intended him to be a villain at all,

because at heart he is a good, noble and brave man who only commits these crimes because he is tricked and lured by the three witches. His only fault is his great ambition; but I don't think I'm not even sure if he really would have killed Duncan ~~if~~ were it not for his hard-hearted wife. If ~~only~~ there are any classic villains in this play, it is the witches, who have led Macbeth to ruin just for their own amusement.

As for the hero, I don't think I could name one either. ~~Macb~~ Banquo is a good man, but his role in the play is minor, his ghost that reminds Macbeth of his sins is merely an illusion, but not really the person himself. Macduff releases the country from a tyrant, but at the same time he is a traitor and you could argue that he didn't may not have done it had he not seeked revenge for the murders of his wife and children, and revenge again is a selfish motive.

All in all, I don't believe this is a play about heroes and villains, but a play about a tragic figure, about a ^{good} man ~~that~~ who is ~~trickered~~ good-hearted but who is ruined by his ambitions and the impact that bad characters had on him.

457 words

① Compare and contrast Macbeth, Macduff & Banquo

Macbeth is a brave soldier and a powerful man. At the beginning of the play he really seems like he will be the hero of the play. He fought and won two important battles for the Scottish king. But after the mysterious prediction of the three witches Macbeth seems to change completely his character. I think that from that moment when he first mentioned that he could kill the king to become king himself he changed from hero to the evil.

Banquo, Macbeth's friend, is also a brave soldier. He is also mentioned in the prophecy of the three witches. He will be the father of the future kings of Scotland. I think that the most important difference between ~~the~~ Banquo and Macbeth is that Banquo would never do something, that he could not agree with his conscience. I would also say that this important difference is the matter why Banquo is the hero and Macbeth is the villain.

The reason why Macbeth became evil and started to kill people is because of his ~~wife~~ wife Lady Macbeth. When she first heard from the mysterious prophecy he started to encourage Macbeth to kill and act dishonestly to reach his aims. From the moment when Macbeth was king of Scotland he knew that Banquo must die, because he didn't want that his children would be kings. Banquo also started thinking that there must be something mysterious about the fact that Macbeth became king. Two friends became enemies. Macbeth managed to kill Banquo and one of his sons but ^{Fleance, the other} ~~the~~ son could escape.

You could see in the play two paths: One path is dishonest and evil, this path had been chosen by Macbeth and the other path is ^{bad} chosen by Banquo, a path in which ambition need not to betrayal and murder.

After that, Macbeth can't maintain his power as a king

because his increasingly brutal actions make him hated as a tyrant. From this moment on everybody should have noticed that Macbeth had turned completely from an hero to a brutal and evil person.

Macbeth started to suffer from his actions; he always sees Banquo as a ghost. He started to frighten.

Macduff, a Scottish nobleman, who is hostile to Macbeth's army is the leader of the crusade to unseat Macbeth.

Macduff's wife and his child had been killed by Macbeth.

Macduff also seems to be brutal, but he's brutal in a good way. He is brutal to unseat Macbeth and that reason lets him also appear as a hero. Macduff is also mentioned in a prophecy from the witches: he's the child which had not been born by a mother. And he's the person who kills Macbeth.

490 words

Macbeth 1) In this text, I will compare the three protagonists Macbeth, Macduff and Banquo, and I will deal with the question, whether it is possible to call Macbeth a villain and Macduff and Banquo heroes or not.

To discuss those themes, a detailed characterisation of each of the persons is needed.

I will begin with the most important and probably most interesting and fascinating character of the book: Macbeth.

At the beginning, Macbeth is described as a brave, and courageous and loyal general of the Scottish army. He seems to be a real prototype of a man and an example of a hero. This impression of Macbeth seems to be completely oppositional to his later behaviour, as he dies as a ~~brave~~ brutal betrayer and murderer. So, at first sight, describing Macbeth's personality seems to be a quite difficult challenge. But like most things in the world, ~~there~~ it is possible to find an explanation, which ~~is~~ neither the one nor the other is anywhere ~~in~~ in the middle between the two extremes.

I think that Macbeth is thoroughly a brave and basically good man. But ~~he~~ ~~has~~ ^{and deciding} he has two big deficiencies in his character: his big ambition and his open-mindedness concerning the supernatural. And exactly ~~there~~ here the three Witches execute their influence. ~~Although~~ Macbeth's two deficiencies normally don't stand out. But the witches deliberately ~~try~~ try to enforce ~~his~~ ~~side~~ those characteristics until they are predominant and Macbeth turns to a ~~very~~ ~~bad~~ bad person.

But you ~~see~~ see many times, that ~~he~~ under normal circumstances, Macbeth wouldn't do any of the crimes which he does. Always it is obvious, that something deep in his mind tells him ~~not~~ not to do that, as ~~there~~ there are many scenes in which Macbeth analyses ~~his~~ and reflects his behaviour.

Like Macbeth, Banquo is ~~also~~ a Scottish general and a brave man. His friend Macbeth describes him as a soldier of royalty, dauntless, wisdom and valour. Other than Macbeth, he doesn't seem to be

52 - this ambitious and he also doesn't seem to be this open-minded to the witches and their forecasts, although ~~the~~ Banquo also receives ~~the~~ ~~and~~ prevision. This seems to be the big and actually the only difference between Macbeth and Banquo, whereas even this is ~~foretold~~ is not sure in view of the fact that Macbeth's prevision is much more promising and big than Banquo's. Who knows whether Banquo would ~~have~~ have done the same things, ~~if~~ the witches had ^{told} promised him ~~the same~~ as they that he would be the king or not?

54 - ~~Now~~ Now a bit about Macduff. He always ~~seem~~ distrusts Macbeth and seems to have a foreboding that Macbeth is responsible for all the murders. ~~But~~ Macduff ~~is~~ makes the impression of a loyal and patriot man, as he ~~tries~~ tries with all his power to act against Macbeth and his crimes to save the Scottish kingdom. And also when Malcolm pretended to be an even more bad ~~and~~ ~~person~~ person than Macbeth, he shows that he is a good man with a consciousness for the right.

60 - ~~Finally~~ ^{Finally} ~~to conclusion~~ ^{to conclusion}. I think, it is not possible to ~~put~~ put Macbeth down as a villain. My opinion is, that ~~every~~ every person has a more or less deficite in his personality and character and that the influence of the witches would have made most of people act like Macbeth. And that's also the reason why I don't think that Banquo is just a hero. Banquo wasn't ~~exposed~~ exposed to the same conditions like Macbeth at all, as the forecasts for him by the witches were ~~actually~~ actually not promising at all, as they didn't really applied to him but to his child's. So, it is not clear to say how Banquo would have acted.

47 - The ~~person~~ person ~~who~~ who seems to be really an honest and good man is Macduff. Also ~~at~~ at him one can't ~~definitely~~ ^{what} definitely say ~~he~~ he would have done in Macbeth's place. But he has proven his loyalty, patriotism and courage so many times ~~(also in the end when he fights for Scotland and kills Macbeth)~~ (also in the end when he fights for Scotland and kills Macbeth) that it is hardly imaginable that he could ~~turn~~ turn to a real villain like Macbeth.

415 - 370 -> 370 + 315 = 685 words