

Quote 3:

This quote comes right after Macduff has led his “army” to storm Macbeth’s castle. Macbeth has found out that the prophecy told to him by the witches has happened, and he will be overthrown by Macduff. It is clear in this quote though that he will not surrender, but rather continue his fight to stay on top. This quote shows Macbeth’s firm nature, and the way in which he has changed as a character. He has come full circle from his paranoid state after he killed Duncan. Now, he no longer cares whether he is found out or not, only about his ruling title. As can be seen in the lines, “Yet I will try the last” and “And damned be him that first cries, ‘Hold, enough!’”, it is clear that although Macbeth has accepted that he will be overthrown by Macduff, he is still putting his efforts into fighting back and will not give in. However, as is clear throughout the entire play, Macbeth completely believes in the witch’s prophecies and ultimately does understand his eventual fate. This shows that while being resilient is important, one cannot always have their way. When multiple people’s best interests are opposing, it is difficult to create peace.

Quote 1:

In this quote, Macbeth has just found out of Macduff’s plan to infiltrate his castle and instead is planning to attack Macduff’s instead. In the line “The flighty purpose is never overtook Unless the deed go with it”, it is made apparent that Macbeth knows that threats will not scare Macduff, and he instead must act on these threats in order for his army to back off. Referenced in this line is the word deed, which in this context is the murders that he is plotting. He sends men to Macduff’s home, and while he does not order them to kill Macduff, they kill the rest of his household, including his wife, son, and servants. This, however, does not cause Macduff to back off. The thoughtless consideration of these actions by Macbeth shows how he has been affected by murder. He has avoided words such as murder or killing, and instead is using words such as deed to avoid the contexts they carry with them. He has become so far removed from his previous morals and mind that he now believes that murder is the only resolution to his problems. In the line, “The very firstlings of my heart shall be The firstlings of my hand”, it is further proven that Macbeth feels that he must act on his ideas, even if they could negatively affect him. This shows that by being desensitized by violence, one’s moral principles will become permanently changed. The violence that has interacted with Macbeth has caused him to no longer be affected by it’s consequences.