

# Ideas

- Shakespeare often calls back to appearance vs reality by using the metaphor of Macbeth wearing ill-fitting clothing. Perhaps Duncan could wear a Thanes Club variety jacket and this gets passed down to Macbeth but it's too big for him and he often has to adjust it (does so when he is lying)
- Macbeth calls upon the stars to hide their fires to keep his appearance distant from his reality. He could turn off a light in Lady's room when he is about to talk about his plans with her.
- Shakespeare goes out of his way to call Macbeth Brave and Noble in the first scene to create an obvious dichotomy between his appearance and reality. When Macbeth and Banquo question why they are in the club, Duncan could give these reasons.
- Lady utilizes appearance to mask reality when she tells Macbeth that he is backing out of the act because he is not manly when in reality doing so would be a courageous and noble thing. Macbeth could question going through with the plan and lady insults his manliness.

## ACT I

Ideas for Continuity and Change

### SCENE 1. INT. CLASSROOM

Open on a classroom scene. All characters except DONNA and MALCOLM present. Everyone is chatting, waiting for class to start.

MACBETH

Did you hear about Duncan? I heard he was accepted into Harvard.

BANQUO

How? Applications haven't even opened.

MACBETH

Probably that Thanes' Club he's the president of. Those socs are made in the shade.

A kid enters the conversation having overheard what MACBETH and BANQUO were talking about.

KID

Have you heard about what happened to one of the thane boys?

MACBETH and BANQUO shake their heads.

KID

Steven Cawdor got kicked out. Some trouble between him and Duncan I heard. The club is going to be accepting two grade 11's this year

MACBETH

Two members from the same grade? That's never happened before.

Bell rings cutting off that line if the editor wishes. and the teacher walks in. MACBETH sits down immediately paying attention to them.

TEACHER

Alright class, everyone take a seat. I hope you had an adventurous (sarcastic) summer break. Raise your hand when I call your name, please... Mr. Banquo?

BANQUO raises his hand.

- When explaining her plan, Lady could say "people have been using deception to gain power since medieval times. Heck, they still do today - have you heard about the McCarthy trials? Anyways..."
- Political deception
- When the Thanes club is mad about Macbeth's actions, someone could say "this isn't the feudal system - the American Dream is about freedom and prosperity; not serving a tyrant!" - to show the change between feudal system and capitalism
- A big connection between Macbeth and the 1950's was how a unified group was forced to split into two sides due to the circumstance (the world splitting into communism vs capitalism and Scotland splitting into Macbeth's reign vs the rebels) - Duncan can call this out during his final announcement by reminding the school that "we're no medieval army, infighting into oblivion. We're Americans, and we've got bigger problems than fighting against each other" as a final blow to Macbeth

- In the play Macbeth makes it appear to the murderers that Banquo was the cause of their problems when in reality it is his fault. Macbeth could summon the beating by convincing the two bullies that it was Banquo who is ruining the school's prestige.
- In the movie version, when Macbeth goes to talk to Lady about something suspicious he snuffs out the candles or torches near by to call back to "hide your fires" and keep his reality a secret under the guise of his appearance. We could have Macbeth turn off a light before he speaks to lady.
- Shakespeare uses reoccurring symbol of blood to represent the guilt and loss of morality that Macbeth will continue to carry on his hands throughout the remainder of the play and the appearance of blood being able to simply be washed off vs the reality of the guilt staying long after.

TEACHER

Mr. Duncan? [pause] Mr. Duncan?

DUNCAN is not sitting in his seat. Everyone looks confused as to why he is late. In walks DUNCAN ending his conversation with the principal.

DUNCAN

Congrats again on the new grandchild  
Dr. James.

PRINCIPAL

Thank you, Duncan.

DUNCAN turns to the teacher.

DUNCAN

Sorry, I'm late Mrs. Elizabeth.

TEACHER

No problem Mr. Duncan. Have a seat.

The room is quiet while everyone stares at DUNCAN while he glides into his seat. BANQUO leans forward to whisper to Macbeth quickly before everyone settles back down.

MACBETH

This is our year Banquo. This year we  
become Thanes.

This scene ends with MACBETH contemplating what BANQUO told him.

SCENE 2. INT. HALL WAY.

MACBETH and BANQUO are walking down the hall to their dorm.

BANQUO

We've only been back for a week and we  
already have so much classwork.

MACBETH

Yeah. I wish it was summer already.  
Lady and I spent a whole month at my  
family's villa near the lake.

BANQUO

(sarcastically)  
Sounds like a gas. [pause]  
(normal)  
What did you get on the history test?

BANQUO and MACBETH stop at their door and walk inside.

MACBETH

I got an A, but I bombed question 18.

Inside their dorm now. MACBETH notices a letter with a fancy red seal on it he picks it up. BANQUO continues to talk in the background while MACBETH opens the letter.

BANQUO

That question was bogus! She said the test wouldn't be that hard but I though it ----

BANQUO notices MACBETH opening the letter.

BANQUO

---- Hey, what's that?

MACBETH remains silent while he reads the letter.

BANQUO

That looks hep, what is it.

BANQUO reaches for the letter and MACBETH jokingly tugs it away. BANQUO moves towards MACBETH and they back out of their dorm.

BANQUO

Mac, what is it?

MACBETH

It's the Thane's club. Banquo, we are going to be Thaness!

BANQUO stares at MACBETH shocked. Suddenly two boys come from behind MACBETH and BANQUO and over their heads with hoods. Blackout.

SCENE 3. INT. THE CLUB'S UNDERGROUND CLASSROOM

MACBETH and BANQUO are seen with the bags over their heads. Two boys remove the bags and they see DUNCAN leaning on a table in front of them, looking at his nails.

DUNCAN

Charles Macbeth and Jack Banquo. Do you know why you're here?

*→ Duncan could be wearing Thanes Club varsity Jacket*

BANQUO  
 (breathing kind of heavy)  
 The letter...

DUNCAN  
 Yes and let me tell you, we are  
 honoured to have you join us.

*Duncan can't explain the  
 reason he chose Macbeth was  
 because he appeared to  
 be noble and brave  
 (Duncan would not have looked  
 much into this, showing  
 his blindness)*

The two boys come around and grab two chalices from the table beside DUNCAN and walk back to either side of MACBETH and BANQUO.

DUNCAN  
 Like any good club. There is an  
 initiation... Drink.

The two boys put the chalices up to MACBETH and BANQUO but BANQUO stops them.

BANQUO  
 Woah woah. What's this?

DUNCAN  
 Are you writing a book? If you don't  
 want to, the door is that way.

DUNCAN points at the door. BANQUO sighs and looks at MACBETH who gives him a reassuring look.

DUNCAN  
 Proceed...

The boys bring the glasses up to MACBETH and BANQUO'S lips and continue speaking as they drink.

DUNCAN  
 Thane's club was founded over a  
 century ago. Our beloved President  
 Eisenhower stood in my shoes once. Our  
 club is the future. This club has  
 brought glory and success to all of  
 its members. Let's see how you two fit  
 in. Feeling anything yet?

MACBETH  
 (Confused)  
 Feel anything? What do you mean?

Suddenly very drowsy. MACBETH AND BANQUO'S heads tilt back and we follow MACBETH through a hallucination.

From DUNCANS POV we see the two twitching slightly.

Cut to Macbeth in his very long hallucination. We hear a voice in his head guide him.

VOICE  
 (a witchy voice)  
 Macbeth doth come. Hail Macbeth!  
 (Banquo's voice)  
 Good sir, why do you start?  
 (Witchy voice)  
 Hail Macbeth, Hail Macbeth

MACBETH speaks this next line to the room of people.

MACBETH  
 (Muttering)  
 So foul and fair a day I had not seen.

Duncan looks worried.

DUNCAN  
 What's going on?

VOICE  
 Hail to thee, Thane.

MACBETH falls out of his chair onto the floor and is struggling there.

MACBETH  
 Hail to thee, Thane.

Duncan looks a bit less worried.

DUNCAN  
 Ah, good.

Back to the hallucination. Macbeth only says "hereafter" out loud.

VOICE  
 And president hereafter!

MACBETH  
 Hereafter!

Macbeth jolts back to consciousness as he says this.

DUNCAN  
 Hereafter what?

MACBETH  
 (panicked)  
 Hereafter? Ah... nothing!

DUNCAN  
 Well, Charles Macbeth and Jack Banquo  
 Welcome to the Thanes club.

BANQUO looks at MACBETH with a smile but MACBETH looks very frazzled.

MACBETH  
 We should go!

MACBETH hurries towards the door.

BANQUO  
 Wait, Mac!

BANQUO turns to DUNCAN as if to ask "how will we get in touch"

DUNCAN  
 It's just the drink that's bothering  
 him. Go on. We'll be in touch.

BANQUO exists in the direction MACBETH went.

#### SCENE 4. LADY MACBETH'S ROOM

The opening shot is dark and you hear a knocking on a door. Then the black turns into the opening of a door. And it's the first time we see LADY, MACBETH'S girlfriend. Before she has time to think, MACBETH gives her a hug.

LADY  
 Mac, what are you doing? You know you  
 can't be here.

They stop hugging and LADY looks at MACBETH.

LADY  
 You don't look like yourself.

She looks from side to side to check if there are any hall monitors outside. Then she lets MACBETH into her room. MACBETH sits on her bed, she leans on her desk.

LADY  
 What's wrong Mac?

MACBETH

I need your help. I might sound ambitious but promise me you'll listen.

*↳ Macbeth turns off light in callback to "hide your files".*

LADY sits down next to MACBETH. MACBETH hands LADY his letter of acceptance.

LADY

The Thanos Club? Mac that's the bees knees!---

MACBETH

--Yes it's great but there's an issue.

Scene fast forwards through the explanation.

LADY

So in a hallucination you had, you saw yourself as president of the club and now you want my help to dethrone Duncan?

MACBETH

I know it sounds crazy but something is telling me I have to do this.

LADY

Don't worry. Leave all the rest to me.

SCENE 5. HALL WAY

MACBETH has just exited the club meeting and is talking with some of the other boys when he notices LADY standing outside waiting for him.

MACBETH

Later guys.

Exit boys.

MACBETH

(to Lady)

So what's the plan?

LADY

Blackmail.

MACBETH

Blackmail? With what?

LADY hands MACBETH a letter.

MACBETH

What's this?

LADY

What's better than evidence? [pause]  
Allegations. With this letter, we  
threaten to expose Duncan's family as  
reds. The school would flip in an  
instant if that got out.

MACBETH

Lady this is perfect. What do we do  
next?

LADY

Slip this note into Duncan's locker,  
and don't let anyone see you. By  
lunch, he'll be gone.

*→ Macbeth could question if they should do  
this and lady could insult his manhood  
by saying "are you even  
a man? or just a fool full  
of the milk of human  
kindness".*

MACBETH takes the note from LADY and smiles at her.

MACBETH

You're the ginchest.

#### SCENE 6. DUNCAN FINDS OUT

DUNCAN and some of his friends walk up to his locker. His  
friends are being rowdy and not really paying attention as he  
opens his locker. In his locker, DUNCAN finds the letter LADY  
planted. This V.O. is him reading it to himself.

DUNCAN (V.O)

Things are gonna change. Step down as  
President of the Thane's club or we  
tell everyone your family is  
communist. Macbeth will become the  
next president and you'll be the one  
to make it happen

LENNOX

What's that Duncan?

DUNCAN quickly puts the letter back in his locker and shuts  
the door.

DUNCAN

It's nothing, just another dumb love  
letter.



ACT II

## SCENE 1. THANE'S CLUB MEETING ROOM

Macbeth calls a meeting for the Thane's club. As people come in they start to whisper about Duncan's disappearance. You can hear people talk about how Malcolm was supposed to become the leader and how he and his sister are absent, along with Duncan.

LENNOX

(to Ross and Macduff)

Did Duncan really just step down as President?

MACDUFF

It's weird, he won't tell me why.

ROSS

It's not like him.

MACBETH

Quiet down, everyone. We've got much to discuss. As you know Duncan has stepped down as president and I have been appointed his replacement.

There is a shot of Macbeth sitting smugly on the "throne".

→ Macbeth now wearing Duncan's varcity  
Sachet-  
Too big on him

## SCENE 2. HALLWAY - BATHROOM

The camera cuts to Macbeth walking through the empty hallways during class. He walks into the bathroom and sees Banquo relieving himself in a urinal. He walks to the urinal next to him looks around to make sure the bathroom is empty.

BANQUO

(makes eye contact and then looks away)

Hey, how are things?

MACBETH

Things are good.

BANQUO

We haven't talked in a while. I've been thinking about initiation night. During my hallucination, I saw you take the throne.

Close up of MACBETH and a V.O this thought ringing in his

head.

MACBETH (V.O)  
And president hereafter.

MACBETH  
That's strange. Mine was totally different.

BANQUO  
It's curious how things fall into place like that.

MACBETH  
(dismissive)  
Yeah. Things have been pretty busy now since Duncan left. I'm worried some of the boys are still questioning my abilities to lead. Where do you stand?

BANQUO  
Right by you Mac. [pause] I should get back to class.

BANQUO dries his hands and leaves.

MACBETH (V.O)  
He says he stands by me, but I've still got the zorros. Can I really trust Banquo?

### SCENE 3. HALLWAY

The school bell rings and BANQUO is seen exiting one of his classrooms. He is carrying books in his arms.

BOY  
Hey, nosebleed!

Two boys come up from behind him and shove him over causing him to drop his books.

BANQUO  
Hey!

The boys whisper and laugh at each other as they walk away. BANQUO picks up his books and looks really confused.

### SCENE 3.5 - CAFETERIA - HALLWAY

BANQUO is getting lunch and as he walks towards the lunch

tables we see him trip. The camera pans up to a group of kids laughing at him. He looks confused again but this time more defeated. Banquo picks himself up and storms out of the cafeteria into the hallway.

The camera then cuts straight to Macbeth whispering something to two scowling kids (in an empty hall) and in the background, we can see the doors swinging open and Banquo in the background, walking towards them. Macbeth turns to look at him, and then swiftly walks away.

BANQUO  
(angrily)  
Mac hey! What the hell is going on?

MACBETH  
No need to get frosted! They were bound to find out someday.

BANQUO  
Find out what??

MACBETH  
That you're gay of course. It was pretty obvious when you  
(said louder so others can hear)  
hit on me in the bathroom!

Banquo looks shocked and confused, then betrayed and angry.

BANQUO  
Mac? You did this?

MACBETH  
(loud and sarcastic)  
Oh cool it, I've never been anything but honest and fair. I wouldn't stoop to something foul like you would.

Macbeth adjusts  
his ill-fitting coat to  
prevent from  
falling off

BANQUO rushes towards MACBETH about to hit him but the two guys that MACBETH were will step in and hold him back.

BANQUO  
You lying snake!

MACBETH gets in BANQUO'S face.

MACBETH  
You're the only snake in this school.

Macbeth could then turn to the kids he was talking to and say "it's kids like him that are ruining our school's prestige"... "Are you going to stand here or do something about it?!"

We then see a closeup of Macbeth's face as he walks away down

the hall, and hear Banquo getting beat up behind him. Macbeth, in cowardice, refuses to look behind him and face what his

SCENE 4. OUTSIDE AT A PICNIC TABLE

LADY is sitting outside the school at a table with some of her girlfriends.

WENDY

Does anyone know what's going on with the auction night?

GAIL

I don't know. The Thane's club usually puts that event on.

LAURA

The club hasn't been hosting any of the bashes they normally do since Mac became president.

WENDY

Our school was bitchin' before. Now everything's falling apart.

GAIL

Hey girls, Mac is still Lady's boyfriend!

LAURA

(looks at Lady)

Oh sorry, Lady! We didn't mean it like that!

LADY

It's ok Laura. I just don't know what's been going on with Mac lately. He's changed.

GAIL

Have you tried talking to him?

LADY

Yes but he always says he is too busy with the club to chat. It's like it's changed him.

WENDY

You need to talk to him when he's alone.

LADY

Yeah.

MACBETH walks out of the school. LADY and her friend notice.

LAURA

Speak of the devil.

LADY

Hey Mac!

MACBETH ignores her. LADY runs up to him and they continue walking.

LADY

Mac! Wait up? What's going on?

MACBETH

With what?

LADY

(annoyed)

With what? With everything? What's happened with Banquo? I saw him walking around with a bad shiner.

MACBETH

You've heard the rumours.

LADY

Well, are they true?

MACBETH

Sure they are.

*→ Macbeth again adjusts his jacket*

LADY

You didn't have anything to do with that, did you?

MACBETH

Why does it matter?

They stop walking.

MACBETH

Lady, why are you even here?

LADY

Because I wanted to see how you were doing. Now that you are president it's like you don't even need me anymore.

MACBETH

(snappy)

Maybe I don't!

LADY

(sad)

Mac, you don't mean that.

MACBETH

Just cut out!

MACBETH walks away leaving LADY alone.

#### SCENE 5. HALLWAY

Macbeth is walking down the hallway with some of his friends from Thane's Club. They're laughing and talking as a group when Macbeth notices Banquo standing in the crowd across from him. Banquo is looking at Macbeth, he has a black eye and cuts all over his face from being beaten up the day before. Macbeth stops, and his friends walk past him and down the hall as he's frozen. All of the people in the hallway disappear and all that we see is Macbeth and Banquo looking at each other. High pitched sound, getting louder as the tension grows between the two and cut to black.

#### SCENE 6. THANE'S CLUB MEETING ROOM

Open to a club meeting. MACBETH is not present. The meeting is being led by MACDUFF.

MACDUFF

Welcome members, our time does call upon us. I know we've all expressed many concerns about Macbeth's Rule. That is the meaning of this gathering.

ROSS

The club has devolved to nothing but chaos!

LENNOX

We've lost two members since Macbeth became president. Duncan and Banquo? They beat feet without a reason.

SOME GUY IN THE BACK

He's a tyrant!!

MACDUFF

I hear you and I agree. Macbeth is

taking power under the most unjust  
circumstances and something needs to  
be done about it! Things are to  
change.

ACT III

## SCENE 1. LADY'S DORM ROOM

LADY exits her bathroom into her room wearing a nightgown. A voice-over/diary entry reveals her thoughts to the audience.

LADY (V.O.)

Out of this damned spot, his reputation will be ruined. We've made the biggest mess, one that can't be resolved with apologies or money. I'm disheartened to admit my dearest Mac has lost himself and therefore lost me. Was it my own doing? The sorrows that have awakened within me, are no longer bandaged by my comfort found within Mac. Macbeth used to have the jets. He was smart. Yet he's made a fool of us both. He's not the man I once knew.

## SCENE 2. THANES CLUB MEETING ROOM

A layover of LADY'S last line in the previous scene and MACBETH'S first line would be cool. MACBETH is sitting in the dim light of the club room.

MACBETH (V.O)

I am not the man I once knew. I'm low. I'm ambitious but I've let it get the best of me. I wronged Banquo and Lady and now they cut out. What is this kingdom worth without happiness and friendship.

*Macbeth could say "I thought I could make  
→ on, that it would take nothing more than a  
little water to clear me of this deed...  
But the filthy witness sticks  
to my hands like blood"*

*-This calls back to  
Shakespeare's blood motif*

Macbeth lays across the couch reaching towards a side table beside the couch. Underneath is the drugged juice that the club uses for initiation. MACBETH looks at it and takes a drink and leans his head back on the couch again.

(Post-production Notes)

MACBETH has another hallucination here and these are the things he sees. Macduff's warning - Macduff's face reflected in a broken mirror (representing bad luck to come with Macduff). The communist flag-waving, following that, a shadowed hand reaches for stars, (representing that Macbeth won't be taken down until humans reach space. [...]) Later SPUTNIK happens)



VOICE  
 (witchy voice)  
 Fear not till Soviets soar through  
 space

MACBETH  
 (he repeats)  
 Through space...

MACBETH lays down on the couch and falls asleep.

SCENE 3. PARK BENCH OUTSIDE

DUNCAN is sitting at a park bench and MACDUFF approaches him from behind and sits down beside him.

Macduff and Duncan talk about what's been going on and Duncan confesses what happened with the threatening blackmail and the note he got.

MACDUFF  
 Duncan.

DUNCAN  
 Hey.

MACDUFF  
 How are things?

DUNCAN  
 Pretty bad man.

MACDUFF  
 Ain't that a bite. What's happened to you. We haven't heard from you in ages. Things have been awful since you split.

DUNCAN  
 Macduff, I can't come back.

MACDUFF  
 Why not? We need you.

DUNCAN hands MACDUFF the blackmail letter he received and MACDUFF looks it over.

DUNCAN  
 It's bogus. My family isn't communist.

MACDUFF

I know. We can fix this. I had a meeting with the other boys, we've agreed that Macbeth needs to go. But we need someone to lead again and we all know that that person should be you.

DUNCAN

Do you think we can take him down?

MACDUFF

Absolutely.

#### SCENE 4. THANES CLUB ROOM

Everyone is gathered for another meeting (sans Macbeth) and the scene opens to some of the boys talking. MACDUFF interrupts.

MACDUFF

Can I have everyone's attention?  
Things are looking up for the club.  
We've got someone on our side, who's willing to help.

Enter DUNCAN. Everyone gasps and mutters to themselves.

DUNCAN

It's good to be back!  
(motivational speech vibes)  
Macbeth has ruled for too long! He's wronged me and our friend Banquo and has wronged this club. It's time we take back what's ours!

LENNOX

How will we do that?

DUNCAN

We need to call him out publicly.

#### SCENE 5. REWIRING THE PA MONTAGE

The boys come up with a plan to rewire the PA system to the Thane's club. There is a montage of the job while they say these two lines and after the lines are done with music. (BANQUO is the one who wires the system)

DUNCAN

The PA system. They won't let us use

it for what we are planning.

LENNOX

So we rewire it. Bring the line down to the club and make our announcement from here.

DUNCAN

Who do we know who can do that?

MACDUFF

Banquo.

Shot of ROSS going up to BANQUO and whispering to him the plan. BANQUO nods in agreement.

SCENE 6. CLASSROOM

MACBETH is sitting in class and the teacher is passing out tests to the class. MACBETH's score says C-. The morning announcements come on.

STUDENT ON PA

Good morning students, here are your announcements for October 4th, 1957. As you may have heard on the news, the Soviets have launched a satellite called Sputnik into space.

MACBETH looks shocked and the voice rings in his head. "until soviets soar through space". He begins to look very nervous, shaking his leg and biting his nails.

STUDENT ON PA

This is a bitter occasion for America but the space race is not over! [pause] Don't forget next week is our annual bake sale.

We cut to BANQUO putting to final wires together as STUDENT ON PA says their last line. LENNOX nods at DUNCAN and DUNCAN turns on their PA. A crackling noise comes on over the PA and Duncan's voice can be heard.

DUNCAN (PA)

Sorry for the interruption everyone. This is Duncan and I have an announcement.

Cut to the PA Student from where he was announcing. He is confused by the interruption and why his PA isn't working

anymore.

STUDENT ON PA  
What's going on?

DUNCAN (PA)  
As you may have heard I stepped down  
as thanes club president, for reasons  
I was too afraid to share until now.  
[pause] Macbeth blackmailed me.

MACBETH stands up suddenly and leaves the class in a rush.

TEACHER  
Macbeth! Where are you going?

DUNCAN (PA)  
He left a note in my locker that  
threatened to expose my family as  
communists if I didn't step down. Not  
only that but he spread a rumour about  
his best friend Banquo, rumours that  
aren't true and because of that,  
Banquo suffered. Thane's Club has  
prided themselves for years on being a  
respectable establishment and Macbeth  
has done nothing to contribute to  
that. This message is for you Mac. We  
hereby renounce your club presidency.  
Thank you.

→ As he runs out,  
his jacket falls  
off

During this speech, Macbeth has left the class and has been running around the halls in a dazed panic trying to find where the announcement is coming from. He checks classrooms. Bumps into students in the halls and finally comes to the Thane's Club door and he bursts through the door. All the boys are there including BANQUO.

MACBETH  
(breathing heavy)

BANQUO is sitting, his busted face turned away from MACBETH. BANQUO says to the other boys.

BANQUO  
No parasite can hide their fires.

DUNCAN says his next line with open arms because he knows he has won.

DUNCAN

This school knows who you really are  
Macbeth. You can't hide your dark  
desires.

A boy closes the door behind MACBETH as DUCAN says this line.  
And the room goes dark.

THE END