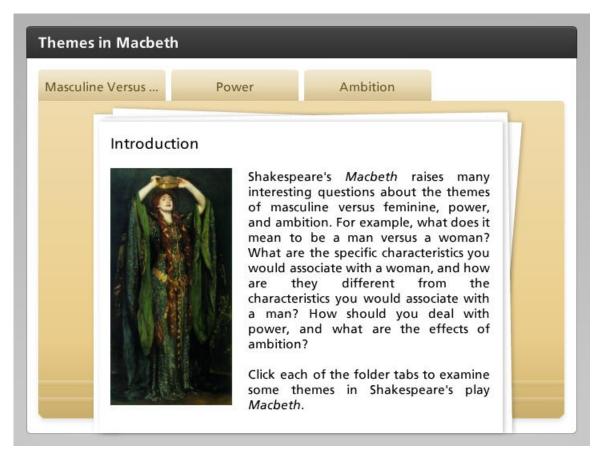
#### Introduction



Shakespeare's *Macbeth* raises many interesting questions about the themes of masculine versus feminine, power, and ambition. For example, what does it mean to be a man versus a woman? What are the specific characteristics you would associate with a woman, and how are they different from the characteristics you would associate with a man? How should you deal with power, and what are the effects of ambition?

Click each of the folder tabs to examine some themes in Shakespeare's play Macbeth.



#### **Masculine Versus Feminine**

asculine Versus	Power	Ambition	
Initially, Ma off the bat with Lady M confident o front. There at home ar Duncan. Lady Macbe knows how Macbeth is out by ques	Versus Feminine to the seems to be the tlefield triumphant. lacbeth gives the import in the battlefield but fore, Lady Macbeth t fore, Lady Macbeth t and is the main organ with is the perfect ho to be a good wife. going to back out or tioning his masculinity what needs to be done	However, the first ression that Macber has little control or akes on the role as nizer in the plan t stess to her guests However, when i h killing Duncan, sh y and even makes	encounter th might be the home the leader to kill King and really t looks like the calls him it clear that

Initially, Macbeth seems to be the manliest man ever; he walks off the battlefield triumphant. However, the first encounter with Lady Macbeth gives the impression that Macbeth might be confident on the battlefield but has little control on the home front. Therefore, Lady Macbeth takes on the role as the leader at home and is the main organizer in the plan to kill King Duncan.

Lady Macbeth is the perfect hostess to her guests and really knows how to be a good wife. However, when it looks like Macbeth is going to back out on killing Duncan, she calls him out by questioning his masculinity and even makes it clear that she will do what needs to be done if he is unable to man up.



#### Power

Masculine Versus	Power	Ambition	
manifest itse applies well between M qualities of temperance lowliness. He to be loyal Macbeth cle	If. The saying "abso to this play. In Act acduff and Malcoln a good king. Ma stableness, boun indicates that it is to Scotland above	ent ways in which olute power corrupts IV, Scene iii, the dis n clearly lays out th alcolm identifies ju ity, perseverance, most important for all else, even incluc oyal to anyone but	absolutely" cussion held e important stice, verity, mercy, and a good king ling himself.

The play presents the different ways in which power can manifest itself. The saying "absolute power corrupts absolutely" applies well to this play. In Act IV, Scene iii, the discussion held between Macduff and Malcolm clearly lays out the important qualities of a good king. Malcolm identifies justice, verity, temperance, stableness, bounty, perseverance, mercy, and lowliness. He indicates that it is most important for a good king to be loyal to Scotland above all else, even including himself. Macbeth clearly does not feel loyal to anyone but himself. He wreaks chaos on Scotland.



# Ambition

lasculine Versus	Power	Ambition	
the damage Macbeth ar their wicked three witch	of <i>Macbeth</i> give yo e that can occur wh nd Lady Macbeth an I choices. They aspira es at all costs. The u om a good man into a	nen ambition over re driven by ambi- e to fulfill the pro unchecked ambitio	rrides morals. tion in all of phecy of the

The events of *Macbeth* give you the opportunity to examine the damage that can occur when ambition overrides morals. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are driven by ambition in all of their wicked choices. They aspire to fulfill the prophecy of the three witches at all costs. The unchecked ambition transforms Macbeth from a good man into a tyrant.

