

Macbeth is set during the 11th century in Scotland, in the most northern part of what is now the United Kingdom. Although Scotland was close to England at the time the play is set, there were many conflicts over who would control the region. Due to its remote northern position, Scotland is frequently dark, dreary and damp, making it the perfect setting for a play about evil deeds committed at night. The scenes in Macbeth are either staged indoors, usually within confining castle walls, or outside, frequently on arid heaths or battlefields. The gloomy settings underline the dark themes of the play. One example is the scene where the three witches first appear in the play. The environment, which includes them, and the unsettling weather foretell a dramatic scenario for us. The Witches inquire about their upcoming meeting "in thunder, lightning, or in rain" as the play opens in the midst of a storm. The actual darkness of the play's setting mirrors the title character's secrecy and deceit. The murder of Duncan is one of the most significant plot points, and it occurs indoors at night, indicating that the setting is not crucial to the action. On the other hand, references to how nature is out of order—"fair is foul and foul is fair/ Hover through the fog and filthy air"—indicates that even the physical surroundings have been disturbed by Macbeth's betrayal.

Furthermore, a lot of the scenes—including the murders of Duncan and Banquo as well as the banquet scene featuring Banquo's ghost—take place at night. This adds to the play's overall dark, supernatural atmosphere. In one occasion, Lady Macbeth addresses the night directly and begs it to hide Duncan's impending murder:

Come, thick night,

And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,

That my keen knife see not the wound it makes.

Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,

To cry, 'Hold, hold.'

As a result, the night is personified as a force itself. When planning to have Banquo killed, Macbeth performs the same thing. The personification of the night hints at how crucial the setting is to understanding the play.

William Shakespeare has turned the world of Macbeth into a dark, desolate one where everything is black. One important fact is "The Tragedy of Macbeth" contains nearly twenty scenes that portray only darkness. On the other hand, only two times the sun shines in the entirety of this work. In Macbeth, the existence of both darkness and light reveals the nature of contrast. With that said, understanding the play typically depends heavily on the unique settings of the scenes.

Walk around Scotland:

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