

**The Cost of Ambition**  
***Macbeth*- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English**

**Concepts**

- Destiny and free will
- Change
- Ambition
- Identity
- Conflict (internal and external)

**Essential Understandings**

- An ambition for power can result in a loss of humanity
- All actions result in consequences; for every action, there is an opposite and equal reaction
- Identity is driven by societal and individual perceptions
- Guilt manifests in many forms
- Heroes are not always perfect; they are human and have flaws
- Literary devices and conventions can engage the reader and help to communicate concepts

**Knowledge**

- Traits of a tragic hero, including fatal flaw
- Literary and dramatic terms: allusion, irony, motif, paradox, symbolism, theme, figurative language, soliloquy, aside, apostrophe, iambic pentameter, denotation, connotation
- The plot of *Macbeth*
- The historical context of the play's setting
- The background/biography of William Shakespeare
- Rubric standards and guidelines for a compare/contrast essay, specifically the organization differences between parallel and integrated schemes

**Skills**

- Analyze the characteristics that make Macbeth a tragic hero; identify and argue for his fatal flaw
- Track and creatively document the characteristic changes of Macbeth and/or Lady Macbeth
- Document motif throughout the play, identifying the multiple symbolic possibilities of a single word through textual evidence
- Participate in and contribute to a Socratic circle discussion topic of their own choosing
- Connect themes and issues to contemporary, real world situations in a variety of ways.
- Demonstrate understanding of a character's point of view and why he or she made the choices he or she did
- Identify examples of motif, irony, paradox, allusion, and figurative language and connect them with Shakespeare's communication of concepts
- Identify examples of apostrophe, soliloquy, aside and explain how these dramatic elements contribute to both the audience's experience and the evolution of specific characters
- Brainstorm, outline, draft, and revise a compare/contrast essay of Macbeth, a tragic hero, and Arthur, an epic hero; use integrated or parallel structure to effectively organize supporting reasons with clarity
- Identify the speaker and significance of notable quotes from the play

**Essential Questions**

- Who controls my destiny?
- How far will I go to achieve my goals?
- Why do people change?
- How can Macbeth's vaulting ambition be related to politics/current events today?
- Why are people motivated to create an identity or appearance that is different from reality?
- How does Macbeth cause his own downfall?
- How do we cope with conflicting traits within our personalities?