

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: CHARACTER CONNECTIONS

In this activity, middle school and high school students will use their creativity, artistic abilities, and imaginations to explore the character relationships in *Macbeth*.

After students have seen the performance or read the play, give them the following list of key characters: **Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Macduff, Lady Macduff, Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Ross, Lennox, Hecate, the Witches, Fleance, the Murderers, the Porter, and Siward.** Ask students to choose ten characters and create a visual project that illustrates the characters and their relationships to each other. This can be done using a character web, a diagram, in the style of a family tree or photo album, or abstractly. Students can use different colors, textures, craft materials, magazine images, cartoons or symbols, to represent the characters and how they are interconnected. For example, one student might choose to construct a giant spider's web, with each character being represented by a different type of spider. Each visual project should be accompanied by an "Artist's Essay," a brief written summary that explains what inspired their artistic choices.

To Explore: Watch a film version of *Macbeth* or a film inspired by *Macbeth* such as: Roman Polanski's *Macbeth*, the PBS Great Performances *Macbeth* starring Patrick Stewart <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/episodes/macbeth/watch-the-full-program/1030/>, Orson Welles classic version, or the Akira Kurosawa Kabuki-inspired version, *Throne of Blood*.

To Discuss: How would you describe the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth? How does their relationship evolve over the course of the play? Compare the portrayal of Lady Macbeth in one of the aforementioned versions to Lincoln Center Theater's *Lady Macbeth* played by Anne-Marie Duff.

Common Core Connection:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.



Costume designs by Catherine Zuber for Lincoln Center Theater's production of *Macbeth*.