

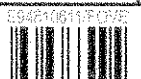
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Shakespeare's Macbeth is a ~~low~~ or ~~insanely~~ a very interesting protagonist with many facets. His sanity can certainly be called into question due to hallucinations and visions he experiences with one interpretation going as far as to say the Witches are manifestations of Macbeth's mind. ~~the other~~ However, it is clear through Shakespeare's language that Macbeth never loses reason and is convinced but not mad. Macbeth can certainly be ~~described~~ described as 'valiant' from his actions on the battlefield to the nobility with which he fights to the very end of the play. 'Fury' may refer to anger at the Witches or himself but rather than anger, Macbeth seeks determination to restore order within himself. ~~Clear lines of arguments established~~

The Gothic is very interested in madness and duality of being and Shakespeare reveals many sides to Macbeth. He appears as a force of reason when debating the idea of murdering King Duncan <sup>with his wife</sup>, 'I dare do all that may become a man, he who dares do more is gone'. This one shows Macbeth as a character to have extreme self-awareness and one capable of high intellectual thought, not the ramblings of a mad-man. However, soon after, this is contrasted with a vision of 'a dagger floating before [him]' which suggests a degree of madness. ~~This~~ ~~vision~~ Critic Ian Johnson of Vancouver Island University wrote in 2001 that 'the dagger is pulling him towards the murder against his will' and is a manifestation of his desire <sup>in his</sup> ~~and~~ imagination. This concerns the idea that Macbeth is mad arguing that his desires are so strong that his developed imagination ~~creates~~ ~~manifestations~~ ~~of~~ them, 'committing him to evil before his conscious mind realises the decision has been made' (Johnson). This same argument can be used to counter interpretations of madness during the ~~ghost scene~~ ~~ghost~~ scene where Banquo's ghost appears. His ~~imaginative~~ imagination creates a manifestation of his

Clear distinction

Analytical interpretation offered



Good point

torment & guilt, and so ~~the~~<sup>these</sup> visions can be seen as indicative of an over developed/mind rather than an insane one.

As the play continues, some see Shakespeare's protagonist descend into madness as ~~the~~ his actions and guilt torment him. However, Shakespeare's perfect use of perfect Iambic Pentameter in Macbeth's soliloquy after hearing the news of his wife's death suggest rationale and reason never leave the character. Shakespeare writes, 'out bries candle' showing how Macbeth can still use imagery to describe events even in the emotional turmoil he is experiencing. (✓) Valid point - though quotation selection is not fully explored

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Excellent integration of contextual detail

Some argue that Macbeth's madness is so extreme so extreme that even the Witches are manifestations of his mind. This is a more modern interpretation as today's audience would not believe in the reality of witches as those in Shakespeare's time did, and look into the symbolic meaning of the weird sisters. However, the fact that Banquo sees the Witches and they ~~predict~~ predict what Macbeth could not, such as the movement of Birnam wood, proves they are agents external to Macbeth's mind.

The question goes on to describe Macbeth's 'valiant song'. The term valiant certainly stands up to scrutiny as Macbeth shows nobility in all areas of the play. From the second scene where the battle is described, Macbeth's sword is said to have 'smok'd with valour' as he 'carved' his way through the battlefield. The image of a smoking sword is as is extreme heat is being generated by Macbeth's intense bravery and the sheer amount of hot blood that has been spilt by his hand. ~~Not only is Macbeth brave in battle but~~ Shakespeare has his protagonist remain noble to the very end, despite the deeds he commits, stating 'I'll fight till the flesh from my bones be hacked', upon the arrival

Analysis of language



alternative interpretation showing evidence of evaluation

of the English forces. This sheer determination never to surrender is both valiant and noble. There

There are instances of cowardice that is anything but noble. The use of murderers to kill Banquo and Macduff's wife and children is ~~nothing~~ in no way valiant but they show Macbeth's complete and utter commitment to seeing through what he started, something which is reluctantly respected by the audience.

The final term in the question refers to Macbeth's 'surg', an inaccurate ~~poor~~ description of Macbeth's emotions. Shakespeare writes 'Blood will have blood, they say'. The ~~re~~ repetition of 'blood' shows just how saturated Macbeth's mind has become with this image of blood, being a representation of his sins. The term 'they say' suggests how Macbeth feels separate from the rest of humanity, isolated, a ~~key~~ theme of the gothic genre. This line suggests therefore that rather than ~~surg~~ it is more a feeling of inevitability. Macbeth is ~~resigned~~ resigned to his fate and will see it through to the end, insightful argument

To conclude, the gothic genre explores human nature and in Shakespeare's Macbeth the audience is invited into the mind of the protagonist. Where characters see madness, we can see an eloquent and self-aware protagonist with a highly developed imagination ~~that~~ stimulated by desire. Where characters see valiant surg, we can see a man trapped in a cycle of inevitable bloodshed that valiantly fights for his own piece of mind until the very end.

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A well reasoned, <sup>sophisticated</sup> argument driven through to its conclusion. Perceptive evaluation of writer's methods, critical interpretations ~~and~~ supported by a wide selection of well-chosen quotations. Context is also well interpreted.

Accepted

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