**Macbeth**

**The Theme of Kingship.**

**Useful phrases for essay writing. Remember when making a statement such as one of those below, you must support it with reference to the text. These phrases may be used to introduce a new idea or may work well in a conclusion to an essay.**

**Shakespeare provides a very convincing testimony of the ideal king in Duncan.**

**The play provides us with very real examples of the qualities required for kingship, the qualities described by Malcolm as ‘king becoming graces’.**

**The contrast between Macbeth and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is sharply drawn.**

**In medieval times, a king was not only a political leader but also a divine link between God and man.**

**Even Macbeth holds Duncan in high esteem.**

**Macbeth doesn’t possess the requisite qualities of a good king. His motivations are selfish and egotistical and when in power he lacks the depth of character necessary to be a fair and competent ruler.**

**The more insecure Macbeth becomes, the more he attempts to dominate by violent means.**

**Macbeth is the tragic hero of this play. A once great and heroic soldier becomes a violent monster.**

**Macbeth’s descent into evil is unstoppable once it begins.**

**The great tragedy for Macbeth is that he is only too acutely aware of his own transformation.**

**Macbeth finally comes to see his life as utterly devoid of meaning. He is full of self-loathing.**