

# Character Committees

You will be working in 2's or 3's reviewing *the first two acts* to collect evidence from the play that will lead you to a better understanding of a specific character which you will choose at random.

**Presentation:** You will presenting these aloud to the rest of the class so exact citation of lines in the play is important. Your written responses should be brief, and your discussion in the presentation to the class needs to be longer.

## 1<sup>st</sup>: Answer these fundamental questions:

1. *Who* am I? (factual, identifying the character and his or her relationships to other characters)
2. *What* am I saying in Acts One and Two? (Just 2-3 brief statements about his or her main topics of conversation with other characters.)
3. *Why* am I saying these things? (Longthiest response: this can involve a whole host of reasons. Speculate freely about motivations, feelings, and thoughts of your character(s). The following framework may help you with this question.)
  - Because I want . . . (what the character wants to achieve)
  - Because I think . . . (What the character thinks about the other characters and the situation they are in)
  - Because I feel . . . (fears, hopes, loves, hate, envy, contempt, and so on)
  - Because this is what I'm like . . . (statements about the character's nature)
4. *How* do I speak? (this concerns speech style, tone, emphasis, speed, pauses, gestures, movements facial expressions, and so on)

## 2<sup>nd</sup>: Find lines which illustrate the answers you've come up with in the fundamental questions:

5. Using YOUR BOOKS, find 5 passages said by or about your character that back-up the conclusions you came to above.
6. Copy the key part of the line and write down the page number and the line number(s) where that passage may be found in the book.

## 3rd: Free-Wheeling

7. Decide what you think your character(s) favorites would be, and why, in the following list:
  - Movie
  - Television program
  - Hobby
  - Holiday vacation spot
  - Music group
  - Favorite subject in school or college

## 4th: Tableaux of your character in action

8. Both or all three of you strike a pose showing typical gestures, actions, and facial expressions for your character(s).

**Note on character drawing:** Those of you who draw the witches, Malcolm & Donalbain, and Lennox & Ross have more than one character because those characters have relatively few spoken lines. Deal with each character as a separate personality—to distinguish among each of the three witches, between the two brothers, and between the two soldiers.

## Evaluation of character committees:

- Accuracy and completeness of question responses
- Effectiveness of personality-revealing lines quoted
- Quality of insights about the character
- Strong nonverbal expression of character in tableaux

## **Character(s)**

Duncan

Macbeth

Banquo

Macduff

Fleance

Lady Macbeth

The 3 witches

The Porter

Lennox & Ross

Malcolm, & Donalbain