

Revising English Literature



Tip 1: Know the texts

- You are studying the following texts:
 - Macbeth
 - A Christmas Carol
 - An Inspector Calls
- You are also studying 15 poems from Power and Conflict (you will only write about two in the exam)



The 15 poems

1. Ozymandias – Percy Shelley
2. The Emigree – Carole Rumens
3. Checking out me history – John Agard
4. Remains – Simon Armitage
5. War Photographer – Carol Ann Duffy
6. Charge of the Light Brigade – Alfred Lord Tennyson
7. Storm on the Island – Seamus Heaney
8. Extract from The Prelude – William Wordsworth
9. Tissue – Imtiaz Dharker
10. My Last Duchess – Robert Browning
11. Bayonet Charge – Ted Hughes
12. Exposure – Wilfred Owen
13. Kamikaze – Beatrice Garland
14. Poppies – Jane Weir
15. London – William Blake



Tip 2: Know the plots

- Timeline the events of each text
- Make sure you know how it begins, how it ends and three or four **pivotal moments** in between
- E.g. Macbeth

Act 1.3
Witches
meet
Macbeth

Act 2.1
Macbeth
murders
Duncan

Act 3.3
Banquo
killed – his
ghost
appears to
Macbeth

Act 4.1
Macbeth
sees the
apparitions

Act 5.9
Macbeth
killed –
Malcolm
is new
king

Tip 3: Learn Quotes

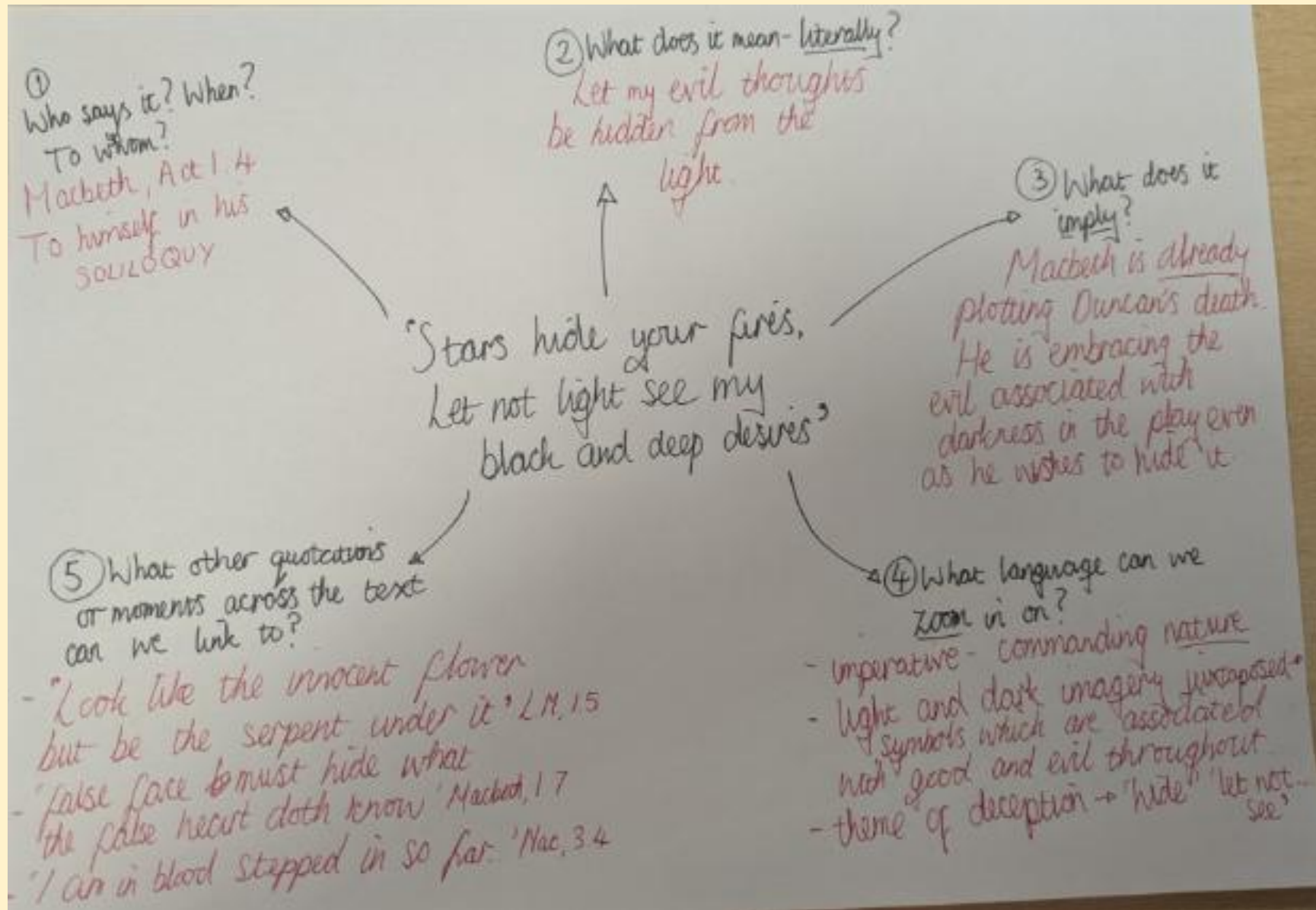
- Have 4-5 **killer quotations** up your sleeve for each text
- Learn these off by heart and practice reciting them
- Make sure you can explain what they mean, why they are important and how the writer creates meaning from them

What are killer quotations?

- Short and easy to remember
- Contain powerful language- helps you plan impressive analysis
- Structurally significant- provides links across the text
- Cover most themes so they can be used for virtually any exam question



Killer Quotation: Macbeth



Tip 4: Create Character Profiles

These are important because:

- Essay questions are often centred around characters or link characters to key themes
- Each character has been crafted by the writer to link to the message of the text



Example Character Profile: An Inspector Calls

For each character you could include:

- 3 facts
- How do they behave at the start?
- How do they initially react to the Inspector?
- What did they do to Eva Smith?
- Do they show remorse?
- Does their behaviour change during the Inspector's visit?
- How do they react when they learn the Inspector wasn't real?





3 facts:

1. A factory owner → 'prosperous manufacturer'
2. A self made-man or nouveau riche- he doesn't come from money
3. The family patriarch who gives 'famous toast(s)' despite his wife being his 'social superior'

Mr Arthur Birling	
At the start (Act 1)...	<p>Pompous and 'portentous'; he infantilises his children and treats the engagement as a prime business opportunity ('working together for lower costs and higher prices')</p> <p>Arrogant and hubristic: has long monologues about the future, all his predictions are wrong (says the 'Titanic' is 'unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable' and that 'the Germans don't want war' → dramatic irony)</p>
Initial reaction to the Inspector...	<p>Casually patronising and dismissive.</p> <p>Tries to dominate, threaten and intimidate when challenged.</p> <p>Names Gerald Croft's parents ('son of Sir George Croft) and 'Colonel Roberts'</p>
Involvement with Eva Smith...	<p>Her boss at Birling and Company. Fired her for leading a strike for higher wages ('told them to clear out', 'she'd had a lot to say-far too much')</p>
Accept responsibility...	<p>Absolutely not; as a Capitalist he believes his duty is to 'keep labour costs down'.</p>
How does his behaviour change?	<p>Gradually becomes quieter: undermined and overruled by the Inspector e.g. Eric asks for a drink 'Birling: (explosively) No. Inspector: (firmly) Yes.'</p>
When he discovers the Inspector's not real...	<p>Celebratory ('By Jingo! A fake!'), 'jovially'. Offers drinks, mocks Sheila and Eric for taking the Inspector seriously. Calls it a 'bluff' and a 'hoax'</p>



Tip 5: Use the resources out there

- BBC Bitesize
- Sparknotes
- PMT (Physics and Maths Tutor)
- Educake
- Seneca
- Mr Bruff's playlists on Youtube
- The Cedars Academy Youtube channel

