

Examples of essay questions from Pearl

- A. Discuss the theme of 'greedy' in the book 'The Pearl'**
 - 1. Firstly, when the doctor's servant informs him that Coyotito is in dire need of help, the doctor replies, "I am a doctor, not a veterinary" and refuses to treat Coyotito without payment, which Kino does not have.**
 - 2. Secondly, when the doctor hears that Kino has acquired "the Pearl of the World", he claims that Kino is a client of his and goes to visit Kino in his home. He is not concerned about the chance of Coyotito dying, and instead tries to squeeze as much money out of Kino as possible.**
 - 3. Thirdly, the priest comes to visit Kino's house after hearing about the world pearl discovery but he's super-condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church.**
 - 4. Besides this, the pearl buyer pokes at the pearl and calls it "clumsy" for being too large and finally offers a thousand pesos just to make sure they keep a low price for something which is worth fifty thousand so that they should make more profits out of it.**
 - 5. Lastly, greed makes people in town to conduct acts of violence against Kino as they are attempting to still the pearl. Blood is shed.**
 - 6. With examples from the book, "The Pearl" show how the theme of poverty has been portrayed**
 - 1. Firstly, the theme of poverty is seen on Kino and his family, as they live in houses with cracks on the wall in that sun rays passes into the house shining bin Kino's eyes.**
 - 2. Secondly, poverty is also portrayed at Kino village as it is consisted of brush houses**

unlike in the town which has been described as a town with plaster houses, hence in Kino's village there is poverty.

- 3. Thirdly, we can also trace poverty on Native Indians who rely on diving in sea as their only source of food and income and through selling the pearl, they gather in the lake**
- 4. Fourthly, when Kino had discovered the pearl on the selling day, Kino covered the pearl with a rug which in the same circumstance when it comes to the rich people, they put it in their luggage, hence the theme of poverty is portrayed on Kino.**
- 5. Fifthly, Coyotito was stung by a scorpion, he failed to be treated as soon as he was stung due to failure to pay treatment money to the doctor by Kino and Juana, hence we also see poverty being portrayed.**
- 6. Besides this, Coyotito has no crib or cradle. His bed is hung from ropes that extend from the ceiling. This is to prevent any insects or scorpions from hurting the baby.**
- 7. In addition to that, when the story begins, Kino is waking up in the early morning inside his hut on the beach. Juana starts the fire in a fire pit which is where she has to cook the meals and the hut that they live in has no door and the floor is dirt.**
- 8. Lastly, after the discovery of the pearl, Kino said after he sells he will make a church wedding and send his son to school which shows that he was poor and could not even afford a church wedding and school for his son.**

C. The theme of conflict in the Pearl

- 1. There is conflict among pearl**

buyers on the price to tag on Kino's pearl. One buyer values it at 1000 pesos while others does not attach anything, yet a third buyer attaches 500 pesos.

2. Kino is in conflict with trackers. They want to get the pearl away from him, a thing he attaches a lot of value on. On the way, he tries even to remove footprints where he walks.

3. There is also silent conflict among pearl buying agents on their wishes of who may inherit there boss position. Each one wishes that it should be him especially with the news of Kino finding the pearl of the world.

4. There is also psychological conflict among pearl admires on what they would do with the pearl if it came their way. One considers donating it to charity works while the other thinks of giving it to the leader of the Roman church.

5. Pearl admires are also in conflict with Kino's plan of what to do with the pearl. This is why there is a deadly silence when Kino mentions the buying of a rifle as part of his plan for the pearl.

6. Juana disagrees with Kino's idea of keeping the pearl. She, like Juana Tomas, considers the pearl as evil.

7. Kino is in conflict with the pearl buyers on the value to attach on the pearl. The highest bid is 1,500 pesos while Kino considers it to be at 50,000 pesos

8. Kino comes to a physical conflict with the pearl thieves (herein

referred to as dark ones) who meet him close to the beach. The physical tussle results into him planting a knife into the neck of one of the thieves who dies instantly.

D. Explain eight ways in which 'symbols' have been used in the book "the pearl".

- 1. Firstly, the pearl is a symbol of wealth which is quite ambivalent in its nature throughout the novel. When Kino first finds the pearl, it is a symbol of hope and salvation. The pearl and what it holds of wealth represents a great potential for the family and so their ambitions grow big.*
- 2. Secondly, like wealth, the same Pearl represents all the evil in the world. It seems all the greed and evil surfaces in the presence of wealth.*
- 3. Thirdly, the pearl is the symbol of beauty, hope, riches and love at first when it is glimmering and attractive but when it has caused problems (evil) to Kino it turns ugly and it is thrown back to the sea*
- 4. Fourthly, the scorpion is a form of foreshadowing as well as a symbol of the evil that is yet to come into Kino's life. The scorpion sneaks into the family's home in attempts to take away their most valuable possession, their son.*
- 5. Scorpion is a symbol for corruption of the innocent. It also symbolizes arbitrary and unmotivated evil that exists in mankind*
- 6. Another symbolic meaning of a scorpion is also a foreshadowing of the many towns' people who are filled with poisonous envy and evil as they sneak into Kino's home to steal the pearl and poison his life.*
- 7. Kino's canoe/boat is the tool he uses to provide for his family and is an essential part of his life. Kino's canoe enables him to catch fish and carries him to deeper waters, where he dives for pearls.*

Steinbeck writes that Kino's canoe was the "one thing of value he owned in the world" and was passed down through generations in his family. Symbolically, the canoe represents Kino's heritage, culture, and family.

8. Given the fact that Kino planned on escaping the village in his canoe, the destroyed canoe symbolically represents the loss of hope and peace in Kino's life. The Song of Evil surrounds the sunken canoe, and Kino's life takes a turn for the worse. Kino's family, heritage, and peaceful existence are destroyed once his canoe is irreparably damaged.
9. The village symbolizes oppression of Mexican Indians who are ignorant and poor.

E. Explain how the theme 'Knowledge is power' has been portrayed in the book 'the Pearl'?

1. Firstly, Kino understands that real power lies in knowledge, his son will read and open the books and he will be able to teach his parents once educated that's why he intends to send him to a better school so that once educated the son will remove ignorance from their parents.
2. In addition, Juana understands far sooner than Kino the danger of possessing the pearl that it will destroy them. Juan Tomas realized quickly the danger of possessing the pearl who insist the pearl to be sold to buy peace but Kino is ignorant of that as a result it leads to the destruction of their properties.
3. Another point is that Kino is aware that the pearl buyers want to cheat him by offering low prices so he decides not to sell it because he has some knowledge on the value of pearl.
4. Lastly, Kino has gained more power and has no fear of anyone because of the

pearl which he regards more valuable and defends it by killing dangerous people who wants to steal his pearl yet by the time he had no pearl he was afraid of people.

- F. Discuss eight points that show the theme of 'curiosity' in the book "The Pearl".
 1. Curiosity is the strong desire to know about something in this case the pearl. Almost everyone in the book is curious to know the pearl of Kino which drives some people to come to his house to see this pearl. The book of Pearl has displayed a lot of curiosity from different characters found in the book. Therefore this essay reasons to offer detailed analysis of the theme of curiosity found in the book of the pearl.
 2. In the first place, the pearl divers at the ocean are very curious to know and see the pearl which Kino has just found. This has led them to abandon their work for a while and rush where Kino and his wife are just in order to see the pearl. By this time, Kino has not officially informed them but they have enough evidence that Kino has found the pearl due to his shouting for joy.
 3. In addition to that, Kino becomes curious after finding the pearl. He looks forward to what it can bring. His life has become ambitious, he thinks of buying new clothes, wedding at church, buying a rifle and sending Coyotito to a good school.
 4. Another point is that Juana becomes curious for Kino to find the pearl as a result she prays when Kino dives into the ocean so that he can be successful. Even when Kino comes out of the water, she becomes curious to know if Kino has really found the pearl from the different Oysters he has collected deep down the sea.
 5. Fourthly, relatives and neighbours of Kino

are very curious to see the pearl and they all rush to his brush house to see this pearl. They gather at his house in order to have a look at the pearl and to know what Kino will do with the money after selling the pearl.

6. *Above that, the priest becomes very curious when he hears the news of Kino's pearl which he later visits Kino for the same. He desires to see it and reminds Kino to remember the un-repaired church after the sale of the pearl and thanking God by giving tithe to the church.*
7. *Furthermore, the French Doctor becomes curious about Kino's Pearl and visits him. At his house the doctor become curious to know where Kino has hidden the pearl, this made him to have glances at the corner of the house where he thinks the pearl can be hidden. He later asks Kino to give him the pearl so that he can keep it in safe place as Kino in order to avoid being stolen.*
8. *The seventh point is that the pearl buyers are curious to see the pearl of Kino which have shaken the whole area because of its large size. They prepare to give Kino the cheapest price so that they sale it at a higher price.*
9. *Lastly, the beggars become curious to see the sudden change of Kino from poverty to prosperity and they wanted to escort the Kino to see how his fortune will become at the market. In this case, they are even hopeful to get more from Kino because as he once tested poverty so he will remember his friends still suffering.*
10. *This essay have discussed how the theme of curiosity is portrayed in the book of the pearl beginning with the pearl divers, Kino's wife, Kino himself, the neighbours, the priest, the doctor, the pearl buyers and the beggars.*

- G. *Describe the mistakes made by individuals and explain how each mistake*

would have been avoided in the book "the pearl".

1. *Firstly Juana makes a mistake by thinking that the doctor is going to cure her baby. She does not realize that he is the one who made the baby sick in the first place by giving the baby the white powder. This could be avoided by sticking to their tradition medicine rather than involving the doctor who does not have the best interests of the people at heart.*
2. *Secondly, Juana makes another mistake by returning the pearl to her husband. Superstition aside, Juana is right about one thing. The pearl is trouble. This item they thought would make them rich causes them to lose everything. Because of it, their baby dies, and their lives will never be the same and this could have been avoided by throwing the pearl back into the sea when she had the chance.*
3. *Thirdly, Kino fails to sell the pearl yet he is aware that everybody in the town /village wants to steal his pearl and faces many attacks in the process. This could be avoided by selling the pearl just to get rid of it and free himself from the attackers when he is offered fifteen hundred pesos.*
4. *In addition to that, the Pearl buyers knows that the world pearl is worth a lot of money and will give them more profits once they buy it but they offer an acceptable price as low as six hundred pesos which makes Kino not to sell it. This could be avoided by the buyers offering at least a fair price.*
5. *Furthermore, Kino knows that after the pearl discovery everybody is an enemy because they all eye the pearl to the point of hunting him like an animal. Despite all this, he proceeds to take with him his wife and a kid on a dangerous journey to sell the pearl and lost the baby on their way. This could be avoided by putting some senses into Juanna's head to stay safe at*

his brother's house.

6. *Kino also makes a mistake by not taking advise from Juana and Juan Thomas that the pearl is evil and he should get rid of it. It later brought troubles like losing their only house and a canoe which could have been avoided by taking the advice.*
7. *Another mistake is made by the doctor who refuses to help Kino when his son Koyotito is beaten by a scorpion because Kino has no money. Later, the Doctor pays a visit to Kino upon hearing that he has found the world pearl and asks for the pearl to keep it safe but is not given. This could have been avoided by being there for Kino when he needed help to gain his trust.*
8. *Lastly Juan made a mistake by not listening to Kino when she was told not to follow Kino on his way to sell the Pearl because that's where the son was shot dead. This could have been avoided by staying at Juan Thomas' house.*

H. With examples from the book, "the pearl" show how the theme 'exploitation' is portrayed

1. *Firstly, the pearl buyers want to exploit the poor Kino so that he remains poor by buying his pearl at the cheapest price. They actually have a meeting agreeing on the cheapest price to buy the pearl of Kino in order that he continues to live a miserably life.*
2. *Secondly, the priest wants to take advantage of Kino by demanding him to thank God in form of paying tithe to church and to repair the church simply because he has the pearl.*
3. *Another point is that the doctor wants to exploit the poor Kino by demanding to keep the pearl on his behalf as if he does not know how to keep. In true sense, he wants to steal the pearl from him in this*

way.

4. *Lastly, the doctor exploits the poor people by not giving them treatment even if they are at a point of death simply because they cannot or they can pay little.*
1. ***Explain eight points that show Kino as a strong character in the book, "the pearl".***
1. *Firstly, Kino dives in the ocean searching for the pearls. He is able to stay under the waters for almost two minutes which shows that he is strong even in the waters.*
2. *Kino also shows a strong character by going to the sea everyday using his canoe to dive for pearls so he can provide the needs of his family.*
3. *Thirdly, upon discovery of the great pearl, one intruder comes to Kino's house at night in attempt to steal the great pearl. Kino gets smashed on the head, but chases off the bad guy. This also shows how strong he is.*
4. *Fourthly, although Kino is pushed by pressure from the surrounding people like Juana that the pearl that it is evil, Kino is able to stand still on his idea of having the Pearl to improve his life and family since it is his only hope to become rich after the sales. This shows how strong minded he is.*
5. *In additional to that, when the doctor visited Kino's house, he proposed an idea to Kino that he needs to keep his pearl at his safe since the house is not safe for valuable things, but Kino rejects the offer and he is ready to defend his pearl against all odds.*
6. *Furthermore, Juana seeing that the Pearl is evil and that Kino is rejecting to throw it away, she decides to throw the Pearl back into the ocean but Kino manages to stop her just as she is about to throw the pearl into the water. He wrestles it back, strikes her in the face, and kicks her and once she's fallen to the ground.*
7. *The seventh point is that as Kino makes*

his way back to the hut, a figure attacks him. He stabs the figure with his knife and leaves him on the ground bleeding while the pearl is knocked onto the ground proving how strong he is once again.

8. Lastly, as the trackers follows into the mountain, Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man's neck just as the gun goes off. Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoot the other man between the eyes proving even more how strong he is.

J. Discuss eight points that shows the theme of disillusionment in the book the pearl.

1. Kino dives into the sea, and finds the great pearl which he and his wife Juana believes will bring more money to the family which will be used for medical payment to the doctor for Coyotito but later Juana discovers that the Pearl is evil and a source of problems into their family.
2. When Kino is about to sell the pearl, the buyers quoted that the pearl is useless and far away from what they are expecting as the way people are talking about the pearl and this disappoints Kino.
3. Just like Juana, looking at the situation that has reached of burning Kino's house, Juan Thomas also starts to believe that the pearl is evil and that Kino should throw it away since it is bringing more trouble than expected.
4. The priest comes to visit, but he's super- condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church after the sells but the great pearl ends back into the sea.
5. After Kino's discovery of the pearl the native Indians believes that the pearl will bring more wealth to Kino and his family but at last they end up realizing that the pearl is not good because of what the

buyers say and it leads to the death of their son Coyotito.

6. The native Pearl divers thinks collecting all pearls together extracted from the ocean and give it to one person to sell it to the capital will earn them more money in attempt to run away from the low prices. Unfortunately, the one assigned for the job ends up running away with all the money.
7. When Kino disagrees with the buyers offer for the pearl, he decides to sell it to the capital thinking he will get better prices there, but along the way his son is shot dead and the pearl is thrown back into the sea.
8. Kino decides he wants to get married to his wife—officially and in the church, now that they can pay for it after selling the great pearl. He looks into the pearl and sees a vision of them at the altar, dressed all spiffy. Then he says he wants a rifle and continues that his son Coyotito will go to school but the great pearl turns out to be an evil thing.
9. **With examples from the book "the pearl" show how the theme of 'violence' has been portrayed:**
 1. **Firstly**, in chapter 3, we see Kino waking up from his sleep with the song of evil pulsing through him. What follows is a scuffle in the dark with at least one intruder who smashed Kino on the head, but chases off the bad guy.
 2. **Secondly**, in chapter 4, we see Kino going home from La Paz after failing to sell the pearl. While at home as the night grows darker, Kino goes to the doorway, after sensing some danger and when Juana follows, she finds him on the ground bleeding from the head after being kicked by the pearl chasers.
 3. **Thirdly**, when Juanna is about to throw the pearl into the water, Kino wrestles it back,

strikes her in the face, and kicks her once she's fallen to the ground. This also shows how violent Kino has become because of the pearl.

4. *Lastly, in chapter 6, Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man's neck (the trackers) just as the gun goes off and Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoots the other man between the eyes.*

- L. *With examples from the novel, discuss how the theme of deceit or dishonesty is portrayed.*

In the novel the pearl the theme of deceit or dishonesty has been captured in a number of ways. The agents of pearl selling, the pearl buyers, the French doctor, the priest and the robbers are caught behaving deceitfully to one another. So the essay explains the deceitful behaviour of some of the characters in the book.

Firstly, when the doctor gets the news that Kino has found the great pearl, he changes his mind and claims that he is treating Kino's child who is beaten by a scorpion. In actual sense he refuses to treat the same child previously because Kino is poor. He also lies that he is not at home when Kino comes to seek treatment for his child Coyotito.

Secondly, the priest or the Father comes to Kino's brush house to confirm the news which he gets about Kino's great pearl. He fails to marry Kino in his church because he has no money to pay him. But now that Kino is rich with the pearl he comes to tell him that he is a great man or father of the church. He goes on to say Kino's name was written in the books. In true sense the priest labels Kino as a poor man and does not visit him in good faith.

Another one is the robber, when the news gets people in town and the neighbours, the

robbers come during night to try to steal Kino's great pearl. Fortunately, Kino senses their presence and goes out to fight them. The robbers fail to snatch the glimmering pearl.

Additionally, the buyers plan to cheat Kino when he comes to sell his great pearl to them. They offer him low prices although they know his pearl is of great value. They go to an extent of saying Kino's Pearl is large and clumsy worth for a museum. They say it is fool's gold yet later on they regret for missing the opportunity and fear their failure to buy it.

Besides that, Kino's enemies come again after failing to sell his pearl to the dealers. They plan to steal Kino's great pearl at dawn in his brush house. They dig the floor in an effort to find it. Meanwhile, Juana has taken it to the beach to try to throw it into the sea. They also fight Kino on his way to the house but he manages to kill one robber.

Furthermore, the agents of pearl dealers disappear with the money when they are sent to the capital to sell pearls for other people. Previously in Kino's village fisher men could trust one person to take their pearls to the capital but these agents end up running away with the money. This is told by Tomas to Kino as a matter of warning him to be carefully with his pearl and that he must not trust anyone on the sales.

Moreover, Juana the wife to Kino dishonestly picks the pearl from its hidden place and walks silently to the beach. She is determined to throw it away to the sea because to her the pearl is evil and it has brought problems to their house. This idea makes Kino to follow her and beats her before she throws it away.

Finally, Juan Tomas a brother to Kino lies to people that Kino, Juana and the pearl have been destroyed in the burning house. This is happening when Kino is hiding in Tomas' house. He tells people different stories to

confuse them. He does not want anyone to follow him or know where he is for protection's sake.

In conclusion, different characters in the novel behave deceitfully to one another. Some want to steal property while others are greedy for money. Others are only jealousy of one another.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Describe the characters of each of the following using **four points**.
 - a. The French Doctor
 - b. The Native Indians
 - c. Juana
 - d. Kino
 - e. Beggars
2. Discuss **eight points** that show how the theme of **unity** is portrayed in the book "The Pearl"
3. With examples from the book "the pearl" discuss how the following themes have been used. Discuss using at least **four points**.
 - a) Corruption
 - b) Jealousy
 - c) Ambition
 - d) Tradition
 - e) Betrayal
 - f) Hope

CHARACTER ANALYSIS IN MACBETH

(A) MACBETH

(i) Ambitious

Macbeth has an ambition to become a king. This is seen soon after the witches tell him that he is going to be a Thane of Cawdor and later a king of Scotland. He is amazed as to how the witches know his ambitious thoughts. This is why Banquo asks him, -*Why do you*

start (seem amazed) and seem to fear things that do sound so fair?|| It is due to his ambition to become a king that forces him to kill King Duncan.

(ii) Brave and courageous

His brevity and courage are portrayed through the way he fights in the battle against Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor. The bloody captain reports to Duncan that Macbeth deserves his name because he fought with valour up to the extent that his sword smoked with blood of those people he killed in the battle. No wonder, therefore that he unseamed (cut open) Macdonald from the navel to the chaps (jaw).

(iii) Noble

Macbeth is admired by fellow actors because of his qualities of being brave especially in the first scene where he fights against Macdonald. Even Duncan calls him valiant cousin. Meaning he remained brave and courageous even when the battle became tough. He is initially an honest man. This is why Duncan entrusts him with the two positions, first as the Thane of Glamis and next as Thane of Cawdor. No wonder therefore that Duncan says that What he Macdonald hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

(iv) Selfish

He does not want anyone to be a king but him alone. This is portrayed through the murder of Duncan. Banquo is also killed on the same grounds to prevent his son Fleance to be a king with reference to the prophecies made by the witches as they said that Banquo will be the root of kings.

(v) Cruel and violent

He violently kills innocent Macduff's wife and

children out of cruelty. Employing murderers to kill Banquo is also a sign of being cruel. Worse still he kills his king in his own house despite being a relative. All these incidents reveal nothing but cruelty and violence in him.

(vi) Disloyal

He is supposed to be loyal to king Duncan as a leader, let alone his cousin. On the contrary, he chooses to rise against him by killing him. He does this although he recognizes how virtuous Duncan is. Macbeth tells us that he firstly fails to kill him because he has discharged his duties as a king so well and we all know that he has just been given another post as a Thane of Cawdor.

(vii) Superstitious

He greatly believes in what the witches say that he will be a Thane of Cawdor and a king hereafter. This is also portrayed through his behaviour of consulting the weird sisters to enquire about his destiny after being troubled by Banquo's ghost at the banquet.

(viii) Loving

He sends a letter to his wife informing her about the promotion to the position of a Thane of Cawdor and that Duncan shall feast at their house. In this letter, he calls his wife his dearest partner of greatness.

(ix) Patriotic

He initially seems to be patriotic to his country Scotland. This is seen when he fights Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor who rises against Scotland. He does not join in the troops of Macdonald.

(3) LADY MACBETH

(i) Ambitious

She has an ambition of becoming a queen. We see this when she tells her husband how she feels after reading the letter. She says 'Thy letter has transported me beyond this ignorant present and I feel now the future in the instant.' This means that she is not thinking about the current position of a Thane of Cawdor but of that which is coming of being a queen once Macbeth becomes a king.

(ii) Influential/ persuasive/ manipulative

She is the one who influences Macbeth to kill King Duncan although Macbeth says that they will proceed no further in this business. Macbeth thinks that it is not right to kill King Duncan because of four reasons: he is a kinsman, he is a subject under Duncan's rule, a host of Duncan and that Duncan has ruled very well seen in his recent promotion to the position of a Thane of Cawdor. Despite all these reasons Macbeth kills Duncan due to his wife's persuasion.

(iii) Superstitious

She prays to the spirits to come and unsex (remove from her feminine feelings), to come to her breasts to take her milk for gall and for thick night to come so that she should not see and feel sorry for Duncan's murder.

(iv) Loving

She always comes in to defend Macbeth. This is seen when she fakes fainting by the time Macduff is asking him why he has killed the guards. At the banquet too, she tells the lords and other thanes not to speak to Macbeth to avoid worsening his fits and she even tells them that her husband has suffered such a disease from young age yet she does this to prevent Macbeth from revealing that he and

his wife are the ones who killed Duncan. She even commands them to take leave after the reappearance of Banquo's ghost which she cannot see.

(v) Heartless/ cruel

She goes on with the murder despite Duncan having brought her a gift of diamond. She tells Macbeth that he should leave that night's business into her dispatch (hands).

(vi) Cunning/ clever

She tells her husband that they should look like an innocent flower but be the serpent under it and that Duncan should be provided for (fed) so that he should not realize that they have planned something bad for him. She is also the one who brings back the daggers to the crime scene and gild (smear) the faces of the guards with Duncan's blood so that people should suspect them to have murdered the king.

(vii) Courageous

Despite being a woman, Lady Macbeth is the one who plans everything about Duncan's murder. She is also courageous because she takes the daggers back to the crime scene, a thing which her husband fails to undertake.

(viii) Coward

She fails to kill King Duncan which is contrary to what she told her husband to live everything in her hands. She gives a lame excuse that she fails to carry out the deed because Duncan resembles her father in sleep.

(C) DUNCAN

(i) Noble

This is portrayed through Macbeth who says that he does not want to kill him because 'he hath borne his faculties so meek and hath been so clear in his great office'. This means that Duncan was an admirable leader because he discharged his duties so well.

(ii) Trust worthy

Many of his subjects trust him. This is because of the way he performs his duties.

(iii) Naive

He lacks insight into human character. He trusted in the first and second Thane of Cawdor very much yet they both later rise against him. When talking of Macdonald, the former thane of Cawdor he admits by saying that 'There is no art to find the minds construction in the face' meaning that it is difficult to know someone's mind just by looking at the face.

(iv) Considerate

Duncan gives positions to deserving people. This is clearly portrayed through the way Macbeth is awarded another title of Thane of Cawdor because he fights so bravely that he defeats Macdonald.

(iv) Just

Duncan rules out that the former Thane of Cawdor be executed because he rises against the country. Duncan also chooses Malcolm as the heir to the throne which shows that he is not selfish.

(D) MACDUFF

(i) Just / patriotic

His justice and patriotism are seen when he aligned himself to Malcolm the rightful heir to the throne not Macbeth the tyrant. He fights to the side of Malcolm.

(ii) Loyal / dutiful

*He comes to wake King Duncan up at Macbeth's castle, although he is late by an hour (iii) Courageous
He fights with Macbeth yet he is quite aware of Macbeth's fighting ability in the battle. He fights up to the extent that Macbeth is killed.*

(iv) Irresponsible

He runs away to England while leaving the wife and children in Scotland where they are not safe. He is quite aware that Macbeth can disturb his family's peace. This is seen in act 4 scene 3 where he asks Ross that "the tyrant has not battered at their peace?"

(v) Noble

He is also admired by other characters due to his qualities that he fights for Malcolm. Menteith in act 5, scene 2 line 1 calls him as the "good Macduff." This is why Caithness, Lennox, and Angus join Malcolm's army following what Macduff has done.

(vi) He is not superstitious

Macduff continues fighting with Macbeth despite being told that Macbeth was told by the witches that he cannot be defeated by a man born of a woman.

(E) LADY MACDUFF

(i) Insensitive

She keeps on questioning the messenger on what wrong she has done to be killed by Macbeth. This delay which results into her death and the children. She was supposed to

be calculative enough as she is aware that her husband has runaway because of the same person Macbeth. She just needed to take hid of the advice and flee with the children.

(ii) Hopeless

She tells the murderers that her husband is hiding in a place which is not holy (unsanctified) meaning not protected by God. She also tells her son that his father is dead.

(ii) Emotional

She tells Ross that her husband has fled leaving them behind because of fear and that he does not love them.

She also tells him that her son has a father yet he is fatherless. This she does out of emotions. She is so emotional because she feels not to be safe without her husband.

(F) MACDUFF'S SON

(i) Wise

He tells his mother that his father is not dead because had it been so then his mother would weep (morn). He also answers his mother that without a farther he can live just the same way birds do with what he gets.

(ii) Inquisitive

He wants to know more from his mother if his father is really a traitor.

(iii) Courageous

He courageously tells the murderers that they are liars in their speech that his father is treacherous.

He even scorns one of the murderers as shag-

haired villain.

(G) MALCOLM

(i) Sensitive

Soon after his father's murder, he and his brother Donaldbain flee to Scotland and Ireland respectively in fear of being killed by Macbeth. This means that he is quite aware that Macbeth can also kill him and his younger brother. This is portrayed through his speech that 'this murderous shaft that's shot hath not yet lighted.... Let us not be dainty of leave-taking'.

(ii) Courageous

He fights with Macbeth yet he is aware that he is good in battle. This he does only out of courage.

Had it been that he is not courageous he would not fight against Macbeth the great warrior.

(iii) Inquisitive

He tried to enquire from Lennox and Macduff who murders his father. This he does with an aim to know more information about the murderer.

(iv) Wise

He requests King Edward the Confessor to offer him 10000 soldiers to help him fight against Macbeth back in Scotland. His wisdom is also seen when he tests Macduff's loyalty by telling him that he cannot be a better leader than Macbeth. This he does on the grounds that Macduff is unharmed by the time he goes to England and that Macduff loved Macbeth so much.

(v) Just

Soon after being a king he promises that some lords will be promoted to the position of earls. He also promises to do the right thing at the right time as he says 'we will perform in measure time and place'.

(H) BANQUO

(i) Superstitious

He asks the witches also to prophesize about himself. This means that he believes in the witches. Besides, he also tells his son Fleance that he had a bad dream on the day he is guarding King Duncan at Macbeth's castle.

(ii) Inquisitive

He pleads with the witches to tell him about his future with reference to what the witches tell Macbeth. Thus, he wants to know more about his destiny.

(iii) Brave / courageous

The report by the bloody captain to Duncan reveals that Banquo alongside Macbeth fights so bravely and courageously. This is why they manage to defeat Macdonald the traitor because as the bloody captain reports they doubly (as a pair) redoubled strokes upon the foe'.

(iv) He lacks insight into human character/ insensitive/

He was together with Macbeth when the witches made their prophecies to Macbeth but he does not run away to safeguard his life. As a result, he is killed, yet he is the first one to suspect Macbeth to have murdered Duncan

because as in act 3, scene 2 line 1 he says
“Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all as the wird women promised, and I fear thou played’st most foully for’t”.

(v) Loyal / patriotic

He is loyal to both Duncan and Macbeth. He is patriotic to the country in the sense that he fights together with Macbeth against Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor. He is also loyal to Macbeth. This is portrayed through his acceptance to attend the banquet at Macbeths’ castle.

(vi) Wise

He does not fully believe in the witches’ prophecies. This is seen when he does not take any action to make sure that the prophecies are fulfilled as Macbeth does. He is wise because he knows that if it is really true that he is going to be root of kings then there is no need to do something for it to be fulfilled but to let it happen by chance.

vii) Opportunist

He finds an opportunity to ask the witches about his own destiny after they prophesied about Macbeth.

(viii) Caring

He gives his son a dagger and a torch for his protection the day they guard Duncan at Macbeth’s castle. He also tells his son Fleance to flee by the time he is being killed by the murderers.

Appearance versus Reality.

The witches echo fair is foul and foul is fair meaning that what seems to be is not what actually is. This theme is portrayed through:

- a. Duncan who initially considers Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor and Macbeth the present Thane of Cawdor as being faithful yet they both later rise against him.**
- b. Duncan and Banquo praise the appearance of Inverness Macbeth’s castle to have pleasant vicinity yet Macbeth is inside it with his wife planning for his murder.**
- c. Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like an innocent flower but be a serpent under it when Duncan goes there for the feast.**
- d. Malcolm, too, tells the English soldiers to hide themselves with Birnam Wood so that Macbeth should not be aware of how many soldiers are there.**
- e. Malcolm also tells Macduff that angels are righteous (bright) though the brightest (Satan) fell.**

(3) Good versus evil / good over evil / order versus disorder / light versus darkness.

Duncan and Malcolm represent a harmonious, ordered or God fearing society, Macbeth and the witches on the other hand, represent evil or darkness. The play initially presents Macbeth as a dutiful servant and later a rebellious character (usurper) who gets the kingship by crooks but later he is defeated. This shows that man is good but is prone to temptations of evil.

(iii) Uncontrolled ambition

Macbeth murders King Duncan because both he and Lady Macbeth have uncontrolled ambition for leadership. We know that he

MAJOR THEMES IN THE BOOK MACBETH

(A) Appearances versus Deceptive /

wants to a king because once the witches tell him that he is going to be a king, he becomes silent until Banquo asks him why he seems to fear things that sound so good. This shows that he is surprised as how the witches come to know his ambitions.

(iv) Betrayal

There are several incidents where the characters betray one another, such as;

- a. The first Thane of Cawdor betrays Duncan by plotting an inversion against his king.
- b. Macbeth betrays Duncan by rising against him and up to the extent of killing him.
- c. Macbeth also betrays Banquo his friend his close friend. Macbeth kills Banquo by using the murderers to prevent him from being the root of kings. However, he is not successful because Fleance, his son flees.
- d. The witches also betray Macbeth by the use of equivocation (half-truth) promises.
- e. He is told that he is going to be a Thane of Cawdor and king hereafter which are fulfilled and later he is told that no man born of a woman shall defeat him until Birnam wood moves to Dunsinane, yet he is later defeated by Macduff.
- f. Macbeth betrays his family by leaving them in Scotland where they are not safe and indeed the wife and children are killed by the cruel Macbeth.

(v) Hypocrisy

Macbeth and his wife are supposed to protect and take care of Duncan their visitor but instead Macbeth bears the knife himself raising it against his own visitor instead of shutting the door against the enemy of him. This is total hypocrisy because they do contrary to what is expected of them.

(vi) Futility of crime / retribution / consequences of what we do / guilty conscious.

- a. Macbeth kills Duncan, Banquo, Macduff's wife and children thinking that he will triumph over this. Contrary to his expectation, he is also killed by Macduff in revenge of his family's death.

He does not progress well after killing Duncan no wonder he is troubled by Banquo's ghost at the banquet.

- b. Lady Macbeth is also not spared as she also faces the consequences of her part in the crimes.

Firstly, she suffers the sleep walking disease and later commits suicide.

(vii) Greed

- a. Macbeth commits the crimes because of greed for leadership. He kills Duncan for him to be a king.
- b. Later he also kills Banquo to prevent him from being the father of kings. He does all this out of greed; he just wants him and him alone to be the leader not anyone else.

(viii) Incalculability of evil

Macbeth commits one crime, that of killing King Duncan thinking that this will be the only crime. Contrary to this, he feels not to be safe as such he kills Banquo. Macbeth says that 'to be thus is nothing but to be safely thus'. Here he means that to be just a king is useless but to be a king who is safe. He thinks that

Banquo is a threat to him because he can suspect him to have murdered King Duncan to have the kingship.

This is so because they were together by the time the witches prophesied to Macbeth that

he will be a king.

Consequently, he commits one crime after the other. One crime leads to the other.

(ix) Fate versus free will

Fate refers to such events that occur over which people do not have control. Free will, on the other hand, refers to such ability people have over certain things thus, they can cause things to happen the way they want.

People use their own effort to achieve what they want, for instance:

- a. Macbeth becomes a Thane of Cawdor by fate since he just fights for his country not to achieve something at the end. However, we see that at the end he is given the position of a Thane of Cawdor. The position in other words, comes automatically.*
- b. Contrary to this, he becomes a King of Scotland by free will. He puts his effort in killing King Duncan for him to become a king because that is what he wants.*
- c. His death is due to free will because he chooses to commit a crime of killing a king and Macduff's family which angers Macduff a lot. Consequently, Macduff kills him. Besides, he is given a chance by Macduff that he should surrender so that he should be used for shows. People would come and pay to see him as tyrant.*

(x) Superstitions and omens

- a. The play includes witches which represent the darkness. Macbeth believes in them and he even consults them to foretell his destiny.*

- b. People also believe that the day Duncan is murdered strange events occur such as his own horses eating one another, darkness during the day and that an owl which is a weak bird kills a falcon which is a strong bird.*

(xii) Gender and aggression / cruelty and gender

- a. The source of the whole chaos in the play is the witches who are also called the weird sisters. This implies that the famine gender is more aggressive than the masculine.*
- b. Lady Macbeth as a woman also influences her husband a lot to kill Duncan. This also portrays the same implication about the famine gender either to be crueler or aggressive.*
- c. On the other hand, though, men are also deemed to be crueler and aggressive than women because Lady Macbeth prays to the spirits to unsex her by the time she wants to kill Duncan, to remove from her the feminine traits possibly to be replaced by masculine ones. This gives us an implication that men are more aggressive than women.*
- d. Macbeth also asks the murderers if they are really men who can carry out a killing action. This shows that men are above women in terms of cruelty.*
- e. Malcolm also tells Macduff to dispute the case about his family's death like a man and tells him to prepare a medicine that can cure their grief which is the revenge. This means that men are more aggressive than women.*
- f. More importantly, though, the witches seem to be transgender because they also look like men since they have beards meaning that it is difficult to tell if they are women or men. This finally shows*

that aggressiveness and cruelty falls on both genders. Sound so fair? It is due to his ambition to become a king that forces him to kill King Duncan.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. *Discuss how Lady Mcbeth contributed to the downfall and ill-health of Macbeth*
2. *In what ways do the witches' prophecies dictate the event in the play Macbeth?*
3. *Describe the steps taken by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to conceal/hide their involvement in Duncan's death*
4. *How does Lady Macbeth analyses the character of her husband*
5. *Evil begets evil. Discuss.*
6. *Un natural deeds breed un natural trouble. Discuss.*
7. *The play Macbeth is about ruthless and ambitious murder. Discuss.*
8. *Show the difference in character between Banquo and Macduff*
9. *Discuss the ways in which the death of King Duncan would have been prevented*
10. *Discuss the murder of King Duncan and its consequences*
11. *Identify and show how five characters took their risks in their dealings*
12. *Discuss points to show that Macbeth lived in a confused and fearful manner after the murder of King Duncan*
13. *Macbeth is a gloomy play full of darkness. Discuss*
14. *Discuss the strength and weaknesses of Macbeth*
15. *Compare and contrast Lady Macbeth and Lady Macduff*
16. *Everyone in the play either suspect or is suspected. Show how this is true. Discuss how the following themes have been portrayed in the play Macbeth*
 - a. *Break down of natural order of things*
 - b. *Power struggle*
 - c. *Sleep*
 - d. *Regrets*
17. *e. Deception*
f. Betrayal
g. Courage
h. Dilemma
i. Cruelty
j. Conflict
k. Murder
l. Superstition/ strange behaviours/ unnatural happenings