The Tragedy of Macbeth: Integrated Quotations and Analysis

DIRECTIONS: Each small group has been assigned a passage to work with, listed below. First, discuss the passage with your group member/s. What is significant about the passage? Then, use the context provided to write a sentence that successfully integrates a quotation from the passage. Finally, write 1-3 sentences analyzing the quotation you present. For the BONUS, write a second set of integrated quotation and analysis using the same passage. You may use the Shakesperience for extra help.

1. PASSAGE:
   But all's too weak,
   For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--
   Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,
   Which smoked with bloody execution,
   Like Valor's minion carved out his passage
   Till he faced the slave;
   Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
   Till he unseamed him from the nave to the chops,
   And fixed his head upon our battlements. (I.ii.15-23)

   CONTEXT: A wounded sergeant speaks about Macbeth’s executed a traitor in a battle that has just ended.

   SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: Before the audience meets Macbeth, a wounded sergeant describes Macbeth as “brave” because he has “unseamed [a traitor] from the nave to the chops, / And fixed [that traitor’s] head upon [their] battlements” (I.ii.16, 22-3).

   ANALYSIS: The sergeant’s characterization of Macbeth serves two purposes. Firstly, describing Macbeth as “brave” lets the audience know that the characters in the play revere Macbeth and consider him courageous. Secondly, the audience sees the Macbeth is accustomed to violence and that violent actions in battle are awarded. While slicing a person open in battle is gruesome, the sergeant associates it with the positive trait of bravery.

   SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: the tone of valor toward the end of the battle as Macbeth sufficiently "unseamed a traitor " with "nor bade farewell to him."

   ANALYSIS: Macbeth is described as a man with valor as he was able to unseam a traitor "without remorse." This implies that he is strong and lacks empathy, this is put to the test through out the rest of the story.

   Remember to use a concrete noun and avoid "this shows..."
2. PASSAGE:

(Aside) The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires.
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see. (I.iv.49-54)

CONTEXT: Just as the witches have prophesied, Macbeth has been named Thane of Cawdor. Additionally, Malcolm, one of Duncan’s sons, has officially been declared Duncan’s heir to the throne. Macbeth’s plan to murder Duncan thus becomes more complicated.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: While Macbeth realizes that the "Prince of Cumberland" Malcolm is in the way of his quest of the throne, he finds that his "black and deep desires" will provoke the evil deeds to come.

ANALYSIS: Incomplete

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: When he hears that Malcolm will become heir to the throne he thinks to himself"Let not light see my black and deep desires."

ANALYSIS: This shows Macbeth true intentions and what he is really planning to do.
3. **PASSAGE:**

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o’ th’ milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great,
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it. (I.v.12-17)

**CONTEXT:** Lady Macbeth has just finished reading a letter Macbeth has sent her. In the letter, he explains the Weird Sisters’ prophesy. She thinks of Macbeth in this soliloquy.

**SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:** After Lady Macbeth receives the letter from Macbeth, she notes how he is, "too full o’ th’ milk of human kindness", to murder King Duncan.

**ANALYSIS:** When Lady Macbeth mentions the milk of human kindness, she’s directly comparing Macbeth to a child or feminine nature. Lady Macbeth means that her husband is cowardly, and does not have the strength to take the position of King.

**BONUS:** Lady Macbeth believes that Macbeth could be "great" and is "not without ambition", but doesn’t have the determination and manhood to succeed.

**SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:** Lady Macbeth's insult towards her husband, "[Macbeth's personality] is too full o’ th' milk of human kindness" (I.v.14) demonstrates her tendency to verbally abuse and emasculate Macbeth.

**ANALYSIS:** Incomplete

---

*Note that these gender roles are based on Shakespeare's time (early modern England).*
4. PASSAGE:

Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;
And chastise with the valor of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem
To have thee crowned with al. (I.v.22-27)

CONTEXT: Lady Macbeth has just finished reading a letter Macbeth has sent her. In the letter, he explains the Weird Sisters' prophesy. She thinks of Macbeth in this soliloquy.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: After Lady Macbeth has finished reading the letter from Macbeth, Lady Macbeth feels that she must "pour [her] spirits in [Macbeth] ear/ And chastise with the valor of [her] toungue (I.v.23-24).

ANALYSIS: Lady Macbeth is characterized as a selfish, determined and greedy woman. She is forcing Macbeth to fulfill the Weird Sister prophesy of having the crown. She wants Macbeth to know how...? (headed in the right direction...)

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: After Lady Macbeth reads the letter from Macbeth she wishes that she may "pour" her "spirits into [his] ear" and "chastise... All that impedes [Macbeth] of the golden crown"(I.v.23-26).

ANALYSIS: Her analysis of the letter shows that Lady Macbeth has little faith in Macbeth. She believes that it is up to her to give him the drive and guts to do what is necessary in order to gain the crown. She declares that no one will stand in her therefore his way on the path to the crown.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: In order to gain the kingship for Macbeth, Lady Macbeth says that she would "pour [her] spirits in [his] ear" (I.v.23).

ANALYSIS: Incomplete
5. PASSAGE:

Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark
To cry “Hold, hold.” (I.v.47-51)

CONTEXT: Macbeth has arrived at his castle and is about to enter the stage. Lady Macbeth speaks to herself, trying to encourage herself to be strong and sure in her purpose.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:
In Lady Macbeth's soliloquy she is encouraging herself to accomplish her task without hesitation or guilt. She uses masking descriptions of a "thick night", "dunnest [darkest] smoke of hell", "knife see not [won't see].. the wound it makes" and heaven would not "peep" (I.v, 47-51).

ANALYSIS:
Lady Macbeth motivates herself by assuring her self that her acts of violence will not be witnessed by the "heavens" because of her actions being unseen. She contemplates both heaven and hell showing her fight with morality.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:
Lady Macbeth plans on killing the king but doesn't want her ruthlessness to show "nor [let] heaven peep through the blanket of the dark."

ANALYSIS:
Lady Macbeth doesn't want judgment from heaven or other people as she plans on killing the king. She doesn't want her conscience to show to heaven "through the blanket of dark".
Look like the time. Bear welcome in your eye,  
Your hand, your tongue. Look like the innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't. He that's coming  
Must be provided for; and you shall put  
This night's great business into my dispatch,  
Which shall to all our nights and days to come  
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom. (I.v.61-67)

CONTEXT: Lady Macbeth has encouraged Macbeth to do what needs to be done in order to be king, but she has not yet revealed the details of the plan. She simply explains how Macbeth must act once King Duncan comes to their castle.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: The author's use of simile successfully portrays Lady Macbeth's duplicity later demonstrated when the character states "Your hand, your tongue. / Look like the innocent flower, / But be the serpent under't. He that's coming/ Must be provided for" (62-64.)

ANALYSIS: Lady Macbeth, who is characterized as being duplicitous, is attempting to convince Macbeth to be more like her. The author's use of simile shows how devious and cunning she is. She is attempting to turn Macbeth into something that he is not: a murderer.

BONUS: Through characterization, the author later showcases Lady Macbeth's deceptive demeanor, later depicted when she states- "Must be provided for; and you shall put/ This night’s great business into my dispatch, / Which shall to all our nights and days to come/ Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom" (64-67). Although the character's tone in the latter portions of this passage is light and filled with positivity, by foreshadowing their upcoming happiness, the author is able to provide contrast between the heinous deed Lady Macbeth is suggesting Macbeth to commit through her deceptive attitude.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:  
Lady Macbeth wants Macbeth to kill Duncan without mentioning her plan, but for him to "put this nights business into my dispatch,"

ANALYSIS: 
Macbeth, while still being conflicted about the murder, is encouraged by Lady Macbeth when she tells him that he is "like the innocent flower, But be the serpent under't" She tells him that he is like a wolf among the sheep and that he is strong, brave and will become the king.

BONUS: Lady Macbeth is trying to give Macbeth confidence by telling him to "be the serpent under't."

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:  
Lady Macbeth wants Macbeth to "look like the innocent flower" so to appear normal when King Duncan arrives, but at the same time "Be the serpent under't" and do what has to be done so he can become king.
ANALYSIS:
Lady Macbeth is continuing to show the influence that she has over Macbeth, and she is able to convince him that he needs to kill King Duncan while "[Looking] like the innocent flower" in order for him to become powerful. She uses the simile of the flower and the serpent because she wants Macbeth to appear "innocent" just as a flower is, and be as dangerous as the serpent, so he will kill King Duncan and rise to power. The serpent would also have a more influential meaning to Shakespeare's audience, as they would be mostly Christian. For them, the serpent would be associated with the devil, and would represent the devil having an influence on Macbeth's decisions.
7. PASSAGE:

But in these cases
We still have judgment here, that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague th'inventor. This evenhanded justice
Commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice
To our own lips. (I.vii.7-12)

CONTEXT: In his soliloquy, Macbeth thinks over the plan to murder King Duncan
and the consequences of doing so.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: "But in these cases, [Macbeth and
Lady Macbeth] still have judgment here, that [Macbeth and Lady Macbeth]
but teach, [Blueprint to kill King Duncan] which! being taught, return to plague
th'inventor. This [well deserved equality] commends the ingredients of our
poisoned [cup] to our own lips" (I.vii.7-12).

ANALYSIS: In this soliloquy, Shakespeare introduces Macbeth in a dilemma.
Macbeth is still having “judgments” on whether or not he should kill King
Duncan. The use of "we" indicates how much force and affect Lady Macbeth
has on his decisions. She is constantly in his ear telling him that it is only
justice that Macbeth kills Duncan.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: While Macbeth is contemplating
murdering King Duncan he says to himself, "[Macbeth and Lady Macbeth] still
have judgment here."

ANALYSIS: Through the process of using judgment Macbeth realizes the outcome
of his action and how it may affect him and how he is viewed by others. In
"we" he refers to his situation in which a he reveals that judgment may still
exist in his own home. And (Incomplete)
8. **PASSAGE:**

   He's here in double trust:
   First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
   Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
   Who should against his murderer shut the door,
   Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
   Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
   So clear in his great office, that his virtues
   Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
   The deep damnation of his taking-off; (l.vii.12-20)

**CONTEXT:** In his soliloquy, Macbeth thinks over the plan to murder King Duncan and the consequences of doing so.

**SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION:** Macbeth is feeling uneasy about what he has done and may become cautious as he says, "his virtues will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued" and with this he is thinking someone might find out that he was the one that caused his [Duncan's] "taking off" (17-20).

**ANALYSIS:** In this passage Macbeth expresses the conflcitions he has about murdering King Duncan. He states the contradictions in killing King Duncan "As his host, against a murderer shut the door" Macbeth should be protecting King Duncan against the murdere not being the person who murders him.
PASSAGE:

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which I now draw. (II.i.34-42)

CONTEXT: In his soliloquy, Macbeth waits for Lady Macbeth’s signal to murder King Duncan.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: Macbeth is confused and second guessing his decision on killing Duncan. He begins to hallucinate and sees "A dagger of the mind, a false creation"(II.i.39). Macbeth is confused on if it's there or not. Macbeth reaches for the dagger saying, "Come, let me clutch thee./ I have thee not, and yet I see thee still," but he cannot grasp it (II.i.35-36).

ANALYSIS: Macbeth is conflicted on the reality of what is around him and on the decision of killing Duncan.

Great quotation integration, but the analysis is not quite as developed as it could be.
They hailed him father to a line of kings;
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown
And put a barren scepter in my grip,
Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If't be so,
For Banquo's issue I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan I have murdered;
Put rancors in the vessel of my peace
Only for them… (III.i.59-67)

CONTEXT: At this point in the play, Macbeth has already killed King Duncan and his two chamberlains. In his soliloquy, Macbeth’s anxieties about Banquo and the rest of the Weird Sisters’ prophesy surface.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: After Macbeth commits the murder of Duncan, Macbeth begins to worry about Banquo. In the midst of his worry, he asks "if't be so for banquo issue" because he remembers the prophecy the weird sisters gave that Banquo's son will become king. (III.i. 63-64).

ANALYSIS: Macbeth did not want to kill Duncan; not only was Lady Macbeth influencing him, but the desire of being king influenced him. He is now regretting it because he will not become king Banquo's sons will.

SENTENCE WITH INTEGRATED QUOTATION: All of Scotland hails Macbeth as the new king. However, the guilt of King Duncan's murder takes away from Macbeth's joy by putting "rancors in the vessel of [his] peace" (III.i.66).

ANALYSIS: Incomplete