

The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act III, by William Shakespeare

Literary Analysis: Comparing Conflicts

Conflict—the struggle between two opposing forces—lies at the heart of all great literature. Conflict is what creates drama and adds spice to comedy. In the previous unit, you read *Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory. Published in 1485, *Morte d'Arthur* is an account of the life of the legendary hero King Arthur. Conflict is a key ingredient in *Morte d'Arthur*, just as it is in *The Tragedy of Macbeth*.

DIRECTIONS: Use the questions below to help you explore the conflict in *Morte d'Arthur* and compare it to *The Tragedy of Macbeth*.

1. What is the central conflict in *Morte d'Arthur*?

2. Is this conflict external or internal? Explain.

3. How is this conflict similar to Macbeth's conflict with Banquo?

4. Does King Arthur experience an internal conflict? Cite a passage as evidence of your opinion.

5. The climax of a story or play is the point at which the conflicts are greatest. What is the climax of the excerpt from *Morte d'Arthur*?

6. How does this climax differ from the climax of *The Tragedy of Macbeth*?
