***Macbeth* Theme/Motif Exploration Project**

For each of the following themes found in *Macbeth*, you will provide the following: a) A certain number of quotes (cited) from the text that support each theme or motif; b) The context in which the quote was said; c) An explanation of how each quote supports the theme or motif.

THEMES

* When ambition is unchecked and oversteps moral boundaries, devastation follows. (5 examples)
* Good kings/leaders do not use power inappropriately; a tyrant who uses his power inappropriately is a bad king/leader. (2 examples)
* Appearances can be deceiving; people and events are often not what they seem. (5 examples)

MOTIFS

* Light and darkness (2 examples) =
* Blood (2 examples) =
* Sleep (2 examples) =
* Visions (2 examples) =

**An example:**

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| **Theme** | **Quote** | **Context and Explanation** |
| Ambition | “I have no spur/To prick the sides of my intent, but only/Vaulting ambition, which o’erleaps itself/And falls on th’other.” (I.VII.25-28) | Macbeth is speaking about his desire to become king of Scotland. At this point in the play, he is discussing the reasons he should and should not kill Duncan. He ends his soliloquy by explaining that ambition is the reason he will end up killing Duncan. Ambition is overpowering every other reason, even though he listed many reasons why he should not kill Duncan. Therefore, ambition is driving him to do what he can to become king, which results in devastation: the death of Macbeth and his wife. |
| Blood | Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/  Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather/  The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,/  Making the green one red. | In Act II, Scene II, Macbeth has just returned from killing King Duncan. During this soliloquy, Macbeth contemplates on whether he will ever be able to get Duncan’s blood off of his hands. In this quote, blood symbolizes Macbeth’s guilt. He knew he had to kill Duncan to become king, but he is already feeling remorse over his actions. |

**RUBRIC**

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| **Each quote is applicable to the theme/motif, and context and explanation are given for each quote:** | **/40 (Elaborate fully in order to show analysis)** |
| **Assignment is typed and contains good spelling, grammar, and punctuation:** | **/10** |