

Sample analysis based on an example unit question for *Macbeth*:

Question: **How does prophecy or the idea of fate affect the choices that people make?** (this is not one of the available questions for our study of *Macbeth*)

In William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the protagonist, Macbeth, exemplifies the idea that a naïve belief in prophecies can prevent a person from making his or her own choices. In Act 2, scene 1, Macbeth and his wife discuss murdering King Duncan. While Macbeth continues to have his doubts about killing Duncan, he envisions a dagger leading him to perform the first step of the prophecy. Macbeth asks, "Is this a dagger which I see before me,/.../I have thee not, and yet I see thee still" (2.1.33-36), and although the dagger does not actually exist, it acts as a reminder of the prophecy and also guides him on the path that he feels he must take in order to become king. Macbeth does not, for a moment, believe that he has free will and is willing to follow the imaginary path of a hallucinated dagger rather than choose not to do so. → this is just the beginning of your explanation and is not enough for a paragraph response.

Quoting and citations

Format → (Act.scene.#)

(2.1.33-36) == Act 2, scene 1, lines 33 to 36

- You MUST include **forward slashes (/)** to indicate end of lines
- Use **ellipsis (...)** to cut out text that you do not need. **** caution **** You need to make sure that whatever quote is leftover in your writing still makes sense on its own.

✓ → "Is this a dagger which I see before me,/.../I have thee not, and yet I see thee still"

✗ → "Is this/.../see thee still"

4 scene (chunk) selections: 1.5+1.7 2.1+2.2 4.3 5.6-5.8