

The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act IV, by William Shakespeare

Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

boasting [BOHST ing] *n.* bragging; talk that shows excessive pride

The tennis player was famous for his loud boasting about his own talent.

caldron [KAWL druhn] *n.* large pot used for boiling liquid

In the cafeteria, they keep the soup boiling in a huge caldron.

mortal [MORT uhl] *adj.* fatal; deadly

The two lions fought, and the one who received mortal injuries died.

motives [MOHT ivz] *n.* reasons for an action

He has two motives for taking this job: He needs money, and he loves the work.

rumor [ROO muhr] *n.* gossip; unproven claim spread from one person to another

The false rumor about the movie star's secret was published in a magazine.

scruples [SKROO puhlz] *n.* doubts that keep you from doing something

I was about to take the last donut, but my scruples stopped me.

trifle [TRY fuhl] *n.* something of little importance or value

I do not care that you lost my plastic bracelet, since it was just a trifle.

vanquished [VANG kwisht] *v.* defeated; conquered

The large army quickly vanquished the small army.

Word List B

benediction [ben uh DIK shun] *n.* words giving a blessing

The man said a benediction over the food before the family began eating.

dedicate [DED i kayt] *v.* commit something for a particular purpose

The doctor wanted to dedicate all his free time to research.

grieve [GREEV] *v.* cause someone to be sorrowful

The latest news about the earthquake victims will grieve you.

laudable [LAWD uh buhl] *adj.* deserving praise

His efforts to help prisoners were laudable, so he was given a Nobel Prize.

legions [LEE juhzn] *n.* large numbers of people

Legions of people bought her book; they made it a bestseller.

reconcile [REK uhn syl] *v.* make two ideas or stories agree or make sense together

She said the car was white and he said it was black, so I cannot reconcile their stories.

repentance [ri PEN tuhns] *n.* sorrow or regret someone feels about past actions

Feeling repentance for her crime, she gave much money to charity.

resolute [REZ uh loot] *adj.* determined; with your mind fully made up

This year, I am resolute to stick to my exercise program.