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Macbeth Essay

Ambition is a want, something that someone desires or lusts for. Ambition can lead to great failures and the downfall of many so powerful. Ambition can also be the good guy. In Shakespeare’s Macbeth, a brave general rises and falls due to his ambition, that in the end, takes him down the wrong path. The prophecies told by the three Witches helped Macbeth add fire to his ambition. This is significant because if Macbeth wasn’t told anything of his future, he would have chosen the path that he was supposed to go on and wouldn’t be where he is now.

Ambition is powerful and with the help of others, it can become more. The three Witches told Macbeth that he was to be more than what he was; that he was going to be King. “All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor! / All hail, Macbeth, that shall be King hereafter!”(1.3.50-51) This was overload for Macbeth. He knew that he was to be King, but he didn’t want it sometime in the future, he wanted it now.

Without Macbeth’s ambition, this play wouldn’t be as it is; no murders would have happened and Macbeth may even still be King. Macbeth’s ambition is the most important part of the book. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have both changed dramatically throughout the book due to ambition. Macbeth was once a brave general who was King Duncan’s best man; but that all ended soon. Macbeth was “Brave – [and] deserve[d] that name- / [he was] disdaining fortune… / till he faced the slave… / till he unseamed him from the nave to th’ chops, / and fixed his head upon our battlement.”(1.2.16-23) This proves that Macbeth was one of the best soldiers and that he would fight for his country, not for just himself. Macbeth changed after he was told all of his prophecies from the Witches. In the end, he turned out to be the worst person possible in the play. He demanded to be given what he wanted and if he didn’t get it, there would be consequences involved. “I will be satisfied. Deny me this, and an eternal curse fall on you!”(4.1.155) This proves that Macbeth has changed dramatically throughout the play.

If you begin to do something that is unhealthy for you, then there are chances that you will become addicted to it. Macbeth begins to murder people that stood in his way. Once he murdered King Duncan, he couldn’t stop. After he killed Duncan, he didn’t believe what he’d done, he didn’t have the guts to go back into the room. “I’ll go no more: / I am afraid to think what I have done; / Look on ‘t again I dare not.” (2.2.48-50) He eventually gives into his ambition and kills his best friend, Banquo because he was a person that was a threat to Macbeth’s secrets of murder. He admits that “things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.”(3.2.56) This shows that Macbeth gets addicted to killing more and more people because you can’t stop once you’ve begun.

Due to the Witches prophesies that Macbeth was to be greater than he was at the moment, Macbeth gained power and committed many acts that lead him to his own downfall. He begins to murder people that stood in his way and once he begun, he couldn’t stop. His ambition was his worst enemy and took over him. Due to his ambition, he committed many horrible things that he would’ve never done before. This is significant because Macbeth was the hero, but he was also his worst possible enemy.