

Shakespeare

Top Dog

Task 1

Watch the interview with Shaheen. Choose the correct answers to the questions.

- Where was Shaheen born?
 - North Africa
 - East Africa
 - South Africa
- How old was she when she came to the UK?
 - 9
 - 11
 - 13
- How old was she when she got the chance to play Lady Macbeth?
 - In her 30s
 - In her 40s
 - In her 50s
- What reason does Shaheen give for Shakespeare's popularity today?
 - His plays have meaning for people in all times and places.
 - His plays are exciting and sometimes funny.
 - His plays can be adapted to different cultures.
- How many examples does Shaheen give of modern idioms which come from Shakespeare?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

- According to Shaheen, how does Lady Macbeth differ from her husband?
 - She's stronger.
 - She's more intelligent.
 - She's more patient.

Task 2

Watch part of the interview again, from 02.45 to 03.36. Complete Shaheen's descriptions of Lady Macbeth. Each gap has two, three or four words.

For Lady Macbeth, it's quite clear what Macbeth _____. For the witches' predictions to come true, _____ basically get rid of King Duncan – otherwise how else is he _____ king? And so _____ it's really important that Macbeth, you know, actively does something. But she realises that he's too weak. She is the strong one _____, certainly at _____ the play. She's the one who is, you know, powering the change in him, she's manipulating him, she _____ the king so she _____ these things.

Task 3

Use the correct words to complete the **expressions** from Shaheen's interview.

rid / world / top / deeply / man / thrill

- When I got to play Lady Macbeth, it **opened a** new _____ to me.
- Shakespeare's writings of over 400 years ago still **resonate** _____ today.

3. When I go and see a Shakespeare play, I **get a** real _____ from his language.
4. For the witches' predictions to come true, Macbeth needs to **get** _____ **of** King Duncan.
5. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband and suggests that he's **not** _____ **enough**.
6. She wants him to be king but she wants to be _____ **dog** too.

Task 4

Can you remember the expressions from the previous task? Write the correct words.

1. When I got to play Lady Macbeth, it _____ to me. (4 words)
2. Shakespeare's writings of over 400 years ago still _____ today. (2 words)
3. When I go and see a Shakespeare play, I _____ from his language. (4 words)
4. For the witches' predictions to come true, Macbeth needs to _____ King Duncan. (3 words)
5. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband and suggests that he's _____. (3 words)
6. She wants him to be king but she wants to be _____ too. (2 words)

Answers

Task 1

1. b) East Africa
2. b) 11
3. c) In her 50s
4. a) His plays have meaning for people in all times and places.
5. b) 2
6. a) She's stronger.

Task 2

For Lady Macbeth, it's quite clear what Macbeth needs to do. For the witches' predictions to come true, he needs to basically get rid of King Duncan – otherwise how else is he going to become king? And so for her it's really important that Macbeth, you know, actively does something. But she realises that he's too weak. She is the strong one in this relationship, certainly at the beginning of the play. She's the one who is, you know, powering the change in him, she's manipulating him, she wants him to become the king so she persuades him to do these things.

Task 3

1. When I got to play Lady Macbeth, it **opened a new world** to me.
2. Shakespeare's writings of over 400 years ago still **resonate deeply** today.
3. When I go and see a Shakespeare play, I **get a real thrill** from his language.
4. For the witches' predictions to come true, Macbeth needs to **get rid of** King Duncan.

5. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband and suggests that he's **not man enough**.
6. She wants him to be king but she wants to be **top dog** too.

Task 4

1. When I got to play Lady Macbeth, it opened a new world to me. (4 words)
2. Shakespeare's writings of over 400 years ago still resonate deeply today. (2 words)
3. When I go and see a Shakespeare play, I get a real thrill from his language. (4 words)
4. For the witches' predictions to come true, Macbeth needs to get rid of King Duncan. (3 words)
5. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband and suggests that he's not man enough. (3 words)
6. She wants him to be king but she wants to be top dog too. (2 words)