

## Standards Focus: Mood

**Mood** is the atmosphere or emotional state created by a piece of literature. The words and sentence structure that a writer uses can contribute to the mood of a piece of work. Shakespeare immediately creates a mood of mystery and fear from the very first moment the witches appear on stage in Act One. Mood is *usually* described in expressions of feeling and emotions, such as fear, anger, hatred, contentment, loneliness, confusion or jealousy, to name a few.

*Directions: First, on a separate piece of paper, list as many **moods** as you can think of (see list above for help). Then, for the following excerpts from Act One, use your list to identify the mood that Shakespeare is attempting to create. Finally, underline the words from the quote that contribute to the mood. Attach your original list of moods to this worksheet when you finish. An example has been done for you.*

Ex. "Fair is foul and foul is fair. / Hover through the fog and filthy air." (Sc. 1; 12-13)

Mood: dark, mysterious, ominous, depressing

1. "For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name), / Dismaying Fortune, with his brandished steel, / Which smoked with bloody executions / Like valor's minion, carved out his passage / Till he faced the slave" (Sc. 2; 18-22)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

2. "I am Thane of Cawdor: / If good, why do I yield to that suggestion / Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair, / And make my seated heart knock at my ribs, / Against the use of nature?" (Sc. 3; 133-137)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

3. "Oh worthiest cousin, / The sin of my ingratitude even now / Was heavy on me! Thou art so far before / That swiftest wing of recompense is slow / To overtake thee." (Sc. 4; 17-21)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

4. "Stars hide your fires! / Let not light see my black and deep desires. / The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be, / Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see." (Sc. 4; 58-61)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

5. "Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, / And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full / Of direst cruelty!" (Sc. 5; 38-41)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

6. "This castle hath a pleasant seat. The air / Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself / Unto our gentle senses." (Sc. 6; 1-3)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

7. "What beast was't then, / That made you break this enterprise to me? / When you durst do it, then you were a man; / And, to be more than what you were, you would / Be so much more the man." (Sc. 7; 48-51)

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_