The corrupting power of unchecked ambition

# Act I – the plan to kill Duncan

* Stars, hide your fires; let not light see my black and deep desires (Macbeth [aside] I,iv,50)
* thou wouldst be great; Art not without ambition, but without The illness should attend it (I,v,20 – Lady Macbeth about Macbeth)
* look like the innocent flower, But be the serpent under't. (Lady Macbeth to Macbeth I,v,66)
* I have no spur To prick the sides of my intent, but only Vaulting ambition (V,vii,25 - Macbeth soliloquy about why he should not kill Duncan)

# Act II – The murder

* Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? (II,i,34 Macbeth soliloquy)
* Thriftless ambition, that wilt ravin up Thine own life's means! (II,iv,35 Ross to Macduff about Duncan's sons. The irony is Macbeth is guilty, not them.)
* Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more (II,ii,54 Macbeth to Lady Macbeth) - consquences of ambition = guilt and sleeplessness)

# Act III – Macbeth consolidates his power

* Our fears in Banquo stick deep... under him, My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said, Mark Antony's was by Caesar (III,i,58 Macbeth soliloquy - ambition leads him on to remove rivals)
* O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives. (III,ii,36 Macbeth to Lady Macbeth)
* Lady M: What's to be done? M: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, Till thou applaud the deed (III, ii, 44 - Macbeth begins to act alone. He is corrupted.)
* It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood...I am in blood Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er (Macbeth to Lady Macbeth III, iv, 131)
* My strange and self-abuse Is the initiate fear that wants hard use: We are yet but young in deed. (III,iv,142 Macbeth to Lady Macbeth)

# Act IV – Macbeth loses all restraint

* The very firstlings of my heart shall be The firstlings of my hand. (IV, I, 147 – Macbeth to Lennox)
* He has kill'd me, mother: Run away, I pray you! [Dies] (MacDuff’s son IV,ii,87)
* MACDUFF: I am not treacherous. MALCOLM: But Macbeth is. A good and virtuous nature may recoil In an imperial charge. (IV,iii,17)

# Act V - Mabeth faces the consequences of his crimes

* Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh! (V,I, 54 Lady Macbeth)
* I have supp'd full with horrors;Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts Cannot once start me. (V, v, 13 Macbeth, on hearing the cry of women who have discovered Lady Macbeth dead)
* MACDUFF: Turn, hell-hound, turn! ...MACBETH: my soul is too much charged With blood of thine already (V, viii, 3)
* This dead butcher and his fiend-like queen (V, viii, 69)