In Macbeth, both the title character and Lady Macbeth undergo a role reversal of sorts by the end of the play. In a world where fair is foul and the natural order is completely subverted, Macbeth becomes completely confident in his grab for power, while Lady Macbeth wanders the castle corridors at night bemoaning her unclean hands following the murder of Duncan and his guards. The question, then, is why these two characters change so much in their attitudes in the relatively short space of the drama. What could cause Macbeth, referred to by his own wife as “too full o’ the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way” (1.5.17-18), to become completely remorseless in his bid for the crown, even to the point at which he eliminates not only his competitors for the throne but their progeny as well? And why has Lady Macbeth, who was so bent on ambition and power in the opening acts that she begged whatever spirits might be listening to “unsex me here / and fill me from the crown to the toe top-full / of direst cruelty!” (1.5.41-43), become a guilt-ridden somnambulist?

Clearly, this role reversal revolves around the question of gender, specifically, the attempt to break out of rigidly defined roles for which persons might be unsuited. Lady Macbeth has several problems, the most notable of which are as follows: She is intelligent, she craves power, she is strong enough to determine what action she must take to achieve her goals, and she is willing to turn to unsavory means to achieve her ends. Oh, yes, and she happens to be a female living in medieval Scotland. In short, Lady Macbeth’s dramatic role reversal and subsequent demise at her own hand can be traced back to one source: her own desire for some sort of power and the attempted overthrow or altering of the patriarchal order of her society that dictates a passive role for which she was completely unsuited.

Tellingly, Macbeth opens with an initial act and scene populated entirely by female characters, the only Shakespeare play to do so. Immediately, by the very presence of the weird sisters, the audience is given to understand something unnatural is afoot. While clearly women, the witches display androgynous characteristics, leading Macbeth and Banquo to question their gender: “You should be women / And yet your beards forbid me to interpret / That you are so” (1.3.45-47).

The difficulty of gender characterization and the attempt on the part of the male characters to neatly file other people into a clear, gender-specific role (the witches should be women) foreshadows Lady Macbeth’s plea two scenes later—she too wishes her sex to be taken away or at least fundamentally changed, so she will not display the weaknesses inherent in all females: compassion and tender-heartedness. The reason for her desire for this change is apparent when the audience beholds her ambition.

Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.
Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. androgynous  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:__________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

2. demise  Part of Speech: **n.**  Context Clues:_______________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

3. foreshadow  Part of Speech: **v.**  Context Clues:___________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

4. patriarchal  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:__________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

5. progeny  Part of Speech: **n.**  Context Clues:_______________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

6. remorseless  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:__________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

7. somnambulist  Part of Speech: **n.**  Context Clues:___________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

8. subverted  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:__________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

9. telling  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:_______________________________________________________________
   Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________

10. unsavory  Part of Speech: **adj.**  Context Clues:___________________________________________________________
    Your Definition:_____________________________________________________________________________________
    Dictionary Definition:________________________________________________________________________________
Exercise 3: Using Synonyms

True or False: Use your knowledge of the Master Word and the context in which it appears to determine whether the statement is true or false. Write T on the line if the statement is true; write F if the statement is false.

1. Something that is subverted is overturned.

2. A remorseless person is sorry for wrongdoing.

3. My progeny are my parents and grandparents.

4. A somnambulist is someone who walks in her sleep.

5. A criminal might be referred to as unsavory.

6. The demise of a project is its beginning.

7. A patriarchal organization is controlled by men.

8. A telling look reveals something about a person.

9. Women who are very feminine are referred to as androgynous.

10. A hint in the beginning of a story might foreshadow something that happens later.

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

1. Matt's unkempt appearance was ...?...; he was obviously under a good deal of stress preparing for exams.

2. Ronald's teachers were worried. He had started spending time with some ...?... characters.

3. The convicted killer had been ...?... in his cruelty toward his victims.

4. Lindsay is a tomboy and has adopted a (a, an) ...?... appearance.

5. Lack of customers led to the ...?... of the new restaurant downtown.

6. My parents started college savings accounts for all of their ...?... .

7. The scary music in the film ...?... (d, ed) the villain's appearance.

8. The program at the convention was ...?... by protestors.

9. Side effects from sleep medication caused my aunt to become a ...?... .

10. In ...?... cultures, women are limited in the roles they can play in society.
Exercise 5: Related Words and Meanings

The italic words in the sentences below are synonyms of the Master Words. Write the matching Master Word from the list on the line following the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>demise</th>
<th>progeny</th>
<th>remorseless</th>
<th>subverted</th>
<th>unsavory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. On Sadic Hawkins Day, the traditional idea of men proposing to women is **overtaken** and women get to take the initiative.

2. Mystery novels usually contain **unpleasant** characters as possible suspects.

3. In countries where women gain education they tend to have fewer **children**.

4. With a growth of digital media, many cities have seen the **end** of their daily print newspaper.

5. Sociopaths can be **heartless** in their treatment of animals.

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Exercise 6: Idioms and Sayings

The Master Word **telling** and the related verb **tell** are used in some common idioms. See if you can determine the meaning of the idioms shown in bold type by using the context clues in each sentence. Rewrite the sentence with a paraphrase of the idiom to show that you understand the meaning. Check your work by looking up the meaning in a phrase and idiom dictionary or on the Internet.

1. The popular talk show host is known for **telling it like it is**.

2. **There’s no telling** how many people might get the flu this winter.

3. **Something tells me** that the team is going to have a difficult road trip.

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Write About It: Male and Female

Form a small group that includes both male and female students and discuss the ideas about gender put forth in this selection. Then individually write a summary of your group’s discussion. Share your summaries in your group and determine if there are any differences in the ways that the male and female students summarized the discussion. Use at least three Master Words or words related to the Master Words in your summary.
# Guide to Types of Analogies in Vocabu-Lit

The chart below contains descriptions and examples of all the types of analogies used in this level of Vocabu-Lit. The statement in italics is a template of a sentence you can use with each type of analogy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| action/actor or actor/action | The first word is an action; the second word is the person or thing that does the action. [First word] is what a [second word] does. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is someone or something who [second word]. | teach : teacher :: sew : needle  
                           |                                                                             | teacher : teach :: needle : sew |
| action/receiver of action or receiver of action/action | The first word is an action; the second word is a person or thing the action is done to, for, or with. [First word] is what gets done to/for/with a [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] does for/to/with [second word]. | teach : student :: sew : dress  
                           |                                                                             | student : teach :: dress : sew |
| adjective/related noun or noun/related adjective | The first word is a quality; the second word is a person or thing known for that quality. [First word] is what a [second word] is. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is known to be [second word]. | artistic : painter :: cunning : fox  
                           |                                                                             | painter : artistic :: fox : cunning |
| antonyms                  | The first word is the opposite of the second word. [First word] is the opposite of [second word]. | hot : cold :: sunny : cloudy |
| category/item or item/category | The first word is a category or group of things or people; the second word is an item or example from that group. One example of [first word] is [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is one example of [second word]. | sports : baseball :: music : jazz  
                           |                                                                             | baseball : sports :: jazz : music |
| cause/effect or effect/cause | The first word is a cause; the second word is an effect of that cause. [First word] causes [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is the result of [second word]. | sadness : tears :: exertion : fatigue  
                           |                                                                             | tears : sadness :: fatigue : exertion |
| degree                    | The first word is an especially strong thing or quality; the second word is a less strong version of the same thing or quality. [First word] is more intense than [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is a less intense version of [second word]. | downpour : shower :: feast : meal  
                           |                                                                             | shower : downpour :: meal : feast |
| part/whole or whole/part | The first word is an individual thing or quality; the second word is the whole that the first thing is part of. [First word] is one part of [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is the whole of which [second word] is one part. | finger : hand :: slide : playground  
                           |                                                                             | hand : finger :: playground : slide |
| product/producer or producer/product | The first word is a thing; the second word is the person or thing who made the first thing. [First word] is made by [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] is made by [second word]. | milk : cow :: vase : potter  
                           |                                                                             | cow : milk :: potter : vase |
| synonyms                  | The first word means about the same thing as the second word. [First word] means about the same thing as [second word]. | tired : fatigued :: nervous : anxious |
Glossary

Definitions and parts of speech of these Master Words are based on the usage in which it appears.

abstract adj. taking place in the realm of thought; conceptual [28]
abyss n. a deep chasm; a bottomless pit [30]
acclaim v. to praise; to honor [3]
accusation n. a charge of wrongdoing; an indictment [15]
acquiescence n. reluctant acceptance without complaint [27]
adornment n. beautification; decoration [20]
aesthetic adj. related to the study of the arts and of beauty; artistic [25]
affectionate adj. showing fondness; devoted [8]
afronted adj. insulted; offended [5]
aff ad. near the stem or tail, usually of a boat [8]
agitator n. a person who spurs others to rebellion or protest; troublemaker [16]
allusion n. an indirect reference; a hint; an implied reference to something familiar [5]
allegiance n. a measure of the height or elevation above sea level [7]
alogous adj. comparable; similar [28]
analytic adj. logical; systematic [17]
ancestral adj. related to those from whom one is descended; traditional [6]
anchor v. to fasten something to keep it from moving; to secure [21]
androgynous adj. of indeterminate sex; partly male and partly female [13]
aneedote n. a small story, usually entertaining and frequently amusing; a short account [14]
anghishled adj. distressed; heartbroken [2]
antropologist n. a scientist or person who studies cultures and societies [17]
apartheid n. a system of racial segregation in South Africa; literally "separateness" [9]
appraisal n. an assessment of value; valuation [15]
artful adj. crafty; cunning [27]
ascetic adj. related to a life of extreme self-denial; Spartan; austere [6]
assurance n. confidence; calmness [7]
atune v. to harmonize; to adjust [22]
audacious adj. daring; adventurous [2]
avarice n. miserly desire for wealth; greed [22]
baleful adj. harmful; noxious [16]
bard n. poet [24]
base adj. low; ignoble; sinful [11]
bler n. a platform on which a corpse or coffin is placed before burial [23]
blight v. a decline; a withering [22]
capricious adj. given to sudden changes in mood; fickle [6]
casual adj. informal; nonchalant [3]
cavalier adj. showing a lack of concern for rules or proper behavior; casual [10]
ceremonious adj. formal; befitting [23]
chafe v. to rub; to irritate by rubbing; to heat by friction [4]
chalice n. a cup [12]
chaotic adj. in a confused state; disorganized [30]
cherubim n. plural form of cherub; angel; celestial being [12]
clarify v. to explain; to make clear [17]
cloyed adj. having too much of a good thing; weary; satiated [11]
coercion n. force; threats [1]
commend v. to praise; to entreat [12]
commerce n. the buying and selling of goods; business [23]
commodity n. a product that can be bought and sold [9]
compensating adj. balancing; redeeming [29]
compliance n. obedience to; acceptance [27]
compost v. to make up (a whole); to constitute [21]
concert v. to agree; to coincide; to act together [5]
confluence n. junction, especially of two rivers; meeting [4]
consoling adj. comforting; encouraging [22]
contemplation n. meditation; thought [30]
convince v. to persuade; to come up with [29]
conversely adv. in turn; on the other hand [25]
convincing adj. believable [19]
correspond v. to match or agree; to be equivalent; to be comparable [4]
courier n. a messenger [12]
course n. a movement along a path; a progression of steps [3]
crest v. to reach the highest level; to peak [18]
cumbersome adj. difficult to manage; clumsy [28]
death n. end; the state of being dead [14]
debased adj. reduced in value [15]
deceit n. deception; trickery [1]
deflect v. to turn aside or bounce off course; to divert [18]
degraded adj. reduced in quality; humiliated [24]
deliberative adj. having the function of considering, judging, or carefully deciding; carefully thinking out [15]
delusive adj. giving a false impression; deceptive [26]
demise n. death; end [13]
derive v. to stem from; to originate [9]
desolate adj. desolate; lonely [11]
diabolo adj. evil; devilish [18]
diaphragm n. see-through; fine [8]
dilapidation n. condition of rot or disrepair [22]
diminutive adj. small; tiny [7]
discount v. to regard something as false or not worthy of examination; to dismiss [19]
disperse v. to do away with; to remove; to get rid of [5]
distilled adj. purified; refined [7]
dirty n. a simple song [11]
dominance n. power; supremacy [2]
dominate v. to influence; to control [5]
dormant adj. inactive; inert; sleeping [18]
draw n. attraction [23]
dreadful adj. awful; fearful [3]
dynamic adj. in motion; charging [28]
eccentric adj. out of the ordinary; strange [14]
economical adj. frugal; thrifty; not wasteful [14]
efficacy n. ability to work or perform; potency [2]
ele n. people of higher classes; aristocracy [25]
elevator adj. hard to find; intangible [24]
emerge v. to come out; to unfold [30]
empyrean adj. heavenly; celestial [24]
empearred adj. to love; to captivate by [20]
enfold v. to envelop; to surround [30]
enigma n. a mysterious situation; a riddle; a puzzle [17]
ennobling adj. elevating to a higher degree; dignifying; enlightening [25]
ensue v. to result from; to follow after [16]
establishment n. the ruling class of a society; the authorities in power [9]
evenhanded adj. impartial; balanced and fair [12]
exclusive adj. having sole rights; belonging to no one else; also, high-class; upscale; select [20]
express v. to represent in words; to convey [21]
extend v. to draw out; to enlarge [26]
exultation n. happiness; gladness [4]
ferment n. turmoil; unrest [9]
firsthand adj. direct from experience or the original source; eyewitness [19]
flawless adj. free of blemishes; perfect [3]
foliage n. the leaves of plants [7]
foreshadow v. to suggest a future event; to anticipate [13]
formative adj. pertaining to development; capable of being shaped [20]
formidable adj. difficult; challenging [2]
foresten adj. abandoned; solitary [3]
frail adj. shaky; unreliable [21]
franchise n. a license given to an individual or group to conduct a specific business [20]
frantic adj. nervous; anxious [21]
furrow n. a row made by a plow for planting seeds; a trench [1]
garland n. a wreath of leaves or flowers worn as an honor [11]
grave adj. somber; dignified [14]
grottesque adj. outrageous; shocking [9]
guardedness n. caution [19]
heifer n. a young cow [11]
helm n. literal meaning: cijer that guides a ship; a position of leadership [16]
idleness n. the state of not working; laziness [6]
idyllic adj. related to an ideal time or place; idealized; sentimental [36]
immolate v. to sacrifice [22]
immunity n. free of legal liability; protection from harm [15]
impel v. to drive to do something; to move [30]
impetuous adj. acting with sudden energy; sometimes without thought; rushing with force [4]
impinge v. to encroach or invade; to collide; to infringe upon [4]
impugn v. to ascribe or attribute; to charge someone with an action, especially a negative act [6]
incipient adj. in an initial stage; developing [6]
incongruous adj. inappropriate; unsuitable [27]
inconspicuous adj. pure; incapable of being corrupted or made sinful [29]
independable adj. necessary; crucial [23]
indulge v. to give in to an action or feeling; to give free reign to [1]
inexorable adj. unrelenting; destined; inescapable [18]
infamous adj. hellish [19]
infraction n. a violation of a law or rule; a transgression [27]
ingot n. a block of metal such as gold or silver [21]
inglance v. a vague idea, a hint [19]
ingo in v. to hint indirectly; to imply [5]
ingovement n. a spur to action; encouragement [9]
ingoing adj. unending; infinite [8]
ingoosition n. mediation; intervention [26]
ingoate adj. close; personal [6]
ingoattractable adj. difficult; troublesome [10]
ingoitive adj. capable of gaining knowledge without the use of reason; sensitive [17]
ingoverted adj. ingrained; deep-rooted; incalculable [16]
ingoal v. to go to the fountainhead; to deliver [26]
ingoalless adj. hopeless; beyond recall [25]
ingoate adj. expressing a lively or playful manner; happy-go-lucky [14]
ingoal together [10]
ingoal-intensive adj. needing a large workforce in relation to output [23]
ingoalina n. a maze [3]
ingoalish v. to waste away; to weaken [16]
ingoal v. to place one thing over another; to make an arrangement in layera [9]
ingoal to set free; to release [25]
ingoate adj. free of anything that might cloud or obscure; clear [7]
ingoal-end adj. of poor quality; cheap [23]
ingoalous adj. bright; glowing [8]
ingoaluxian n. excess; abundance [7]
ingoal n. a stringed instrument; harp [24]
ingoal adj. poetic [9]
ingoaligious adj. generous; unselfish [10]
ingoalfactor n. criminal; lawbreaker [16]
ingoalvolent adj. evil-minded; vicious [6]
ingoalpower adj. referring to labor [23]
ingoalrion n. the death of a person who is killed for his or her religious or other beliefs [3]
ingoalinary adj. of or related to humanitarian; or teaching work for a religion [21]
ingoal mode n. manner; method; custom; form [14]
ingoal monopoly n. the exclusive control of the sale of a product or service [20]
ingoal natal adj. of or related to a person's birth [29]
ingoal nautical adj. related to ships and the sea; naval [8]
ingoal numbness n. a lack of emotion or expression [21]
ingoal obligatory adj. mandatory; required by law [27]
ingoal obscured adj. hidden; covered up [15]
ingoal odds n. probability; chances [18]
ingoal onfing n. the part of the sea visible in the distance [8]
ingoal opportunism n. taking an opportunity without regard to principles or values; exploitation [15]
ingoal optimum adj. the best [17]
ingoal outset n. beginning; start [18]
ingoal paean n. a song of triumph or thanksgiving in honor of a Greek god [24]
ingoal palatial adj. resembling a palace; grand; opulent [20]
ingoal parching adj. thirsting [11]
ingoal parsimonious adj. miserly; penny-pinching [22]
ingoal party n. a political group; a camp [10]
ingoal pastoral n. a work of art that deals with the simple rural life of shepherds [11]
ingoal patriarchal adj. related to a society ruled by men [13]
ingoal pernicious adj. evil; damaging; dangerous [1]
ingoal perpetual adj. never-ending; permanent [6]
ingoal personified adj. manifested in the form of a person; embodied [8]
ingoal phenomena n. plural of phenomenon: an observable event or object; an occurrence [17]
ingoal picturesque adj. charming; strikingly unusual; suitable for a picture [22]
ingoal piety n. religious devotion; faith [1]
ingoal pious adj. showing reverence to God; divine [11]
ingoal pivot n. central point; turning point [18]
ingoal placid adj. calm; peaceful [8]
ingoal plague v. to annoy; to afflict [12]
ingoal plausible adj. having a reasonable or probable appearance; believable [27]
ingoal plead v. to argue on behalf of someone; to support; to persuade [12]
ingoal plunder n. stolen goods; loot [1]