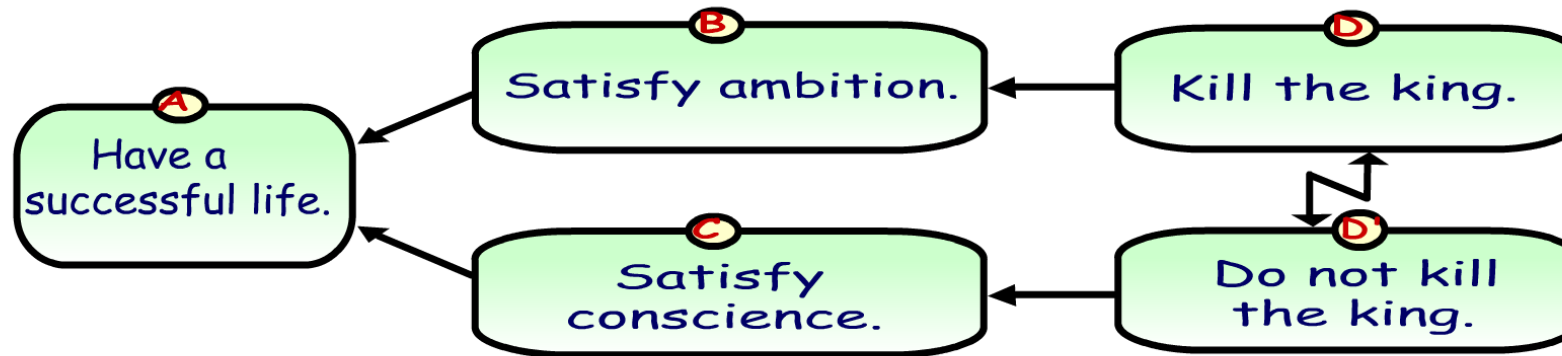


UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH LITERATURE: "MACBETH"

I teach Shakespeare to Grade 12 students as part of their English course. We are under time pressure because South African students have to do writing, speaking, language and literature all in one course. I found the following cloud a very quick and useful method to introduce the topic of Macbeth's motivation.



It is clear from one's knowledge of the play that Macbeth does not resolve this dilemma. The cloud led to a fruitful discussion on an essential element of the play. What I found interesting was that the cloud very neatly points to the tragic nature of the play because Macbeth does not meet his need for satisfying conscience. Macbeth was doomed because he could not break this cloud (if only he had studied TOC!).

Naturally the same type of cloud could be used for Hamlet, King Lear, Othello...