

## ***Degrees of Evil***

*While reading Macbeth, we will be examining the nature of evil. One of the ideas presented in the play is that there are varying degrees of evil, with the title character slipping further and further into evil and madness. Do you agree?*

*Below you will find fifteen examples of evil, some real and some fictional. Please rank them in order from 1 to 15, with 1 the most evil and 15 being the least evil.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ A young woman plans a murder, although she does not actually do the deed herself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A con artist swindles elderly people out of their life savings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ An inmate in a concentration camp becomes an assistant to his captors, helping them beat prisoners to make them work harder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A man has his coworker murdered so that he will be certain to get a promotion at work, which the coworker is also competing for.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A mob boss has the family of his enemy murdered in order to take revenge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A king sentences some of his peasants to death for heresy (disloyalty).
- \_\_\_\_\_ A woman frames two unsuspecting men for murder, a crime which she committed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Out of grief, a man kills another man who murdered his father.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A tobacco industry executive lies to a congressional committee about the addictive qualities of smoking even after his research shows thousands of people each year will die from smoking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A wife covers for her husband, who has committed murder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A man bargains with magical forces of evil to fulfill his dreams of wealth and power.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A scientist develops a biological weapon that could kill thousands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A military general instructs his men to engage in war, knowing that many men will die.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two boys open fire in a high school, killing several and wounding others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A woman verbally abuses her husband to make him more submissive.