The motif of darkness is central to the evil ideas portrayed in the play Macbeth. The very first scene of the play takes place on the heath when a storm is occurring; this is to symbolize the darkness that will tread throughout the entire play. The witches themselves demonstrate their evil intentions, “Fair is foul, and foul is far,” (1.1.11) which demonstrates their belief in the idea that foul intentions can also be considered fair treatment. It has been suggested that, “The blackness of night is to the hero a thing of fear, even of horror…” (Muir) and that is most often displayed by Macbeth himself when he hallucinates (1.4) or believes he hears voices following him (1.8). Using this type of imagery helps describe the disorder and chaos that surrounds Macbeth (Muir).

Quoting a Shakespearean Play? Use (Act, scene, line)

DIRECT QUOTE! I couldn’t put this into my own words, so I quoted it directly and gave credit to the source.

PARAPHRASE! Taking someone else’s ideas, but putting them into my own words – however, I still give credit to the person who gave me the idea in the first place.