Bird’s eye view: how to talk about the BIG PICTURE

1. The writer...
   Writer’s name... (spelled correctly and with a capital letter!)

2. ...says (or does)...
   presents suggests creates evokes illustrates implies
gives the impression that highlights introduces

3. ...something...
   Theme Notion Idea Belief
   (violence / power / conflict / mental stability / identity / gender / age / nature / duality / relationships / love / death / pain / greed / supernatural...)

4. ...in the text...
   ...throughout the novel / play / poem...
   ...across the text...
   ...from the beginning...
   ...by the end...

Interesting BIG IDEAS to talk about:

- Structure
  Repetitive / cyclical / fragmented / linear / chronological...

- Character Journey
  Rise / ascend / grow / mature / fall / descend / fail / struggle / change...
  Moments of: tension / stress / calm / resolution / shift / change / conflict / clarity...

- Narrative arc

- Change / shift
  Tone / atmosphere / mood / attitude...
  ...make a point about...
  ...change our ideas about...
  ...share their own experiences of...
  ...teach us about...
  ...respond to (event or idea)...
  ...promote (idea)...
  ...challenge us to...
  ...entertain...
  ...express (emotion: anger / fear / love...)

The author is trying to...

- human nature society
- human capabilities human behaviour
- echo / distort / mirror reality existence
- the purpose of life

Shakespeare explores the Jacobean belief in the divine right of kings throughout the play. In the opening, the monarchy is seen as strong unimpeachable because Macbeth is a powerful warrior on its side. However, there is a significant shift when Macbeth commits the sin of regicide; Shakespeare portrays the descent of society into chaos. The author is trying to promote the idea of divine kingship, and suggesting that without a monarchy, society will crumble.