MACBETH: Act III Reading Guide

In scene i, Macbeth, who is now king, reminds Banquo of the banquet that evening. Macbeth is then alone with his thought \$\infty_e\$
1. In your own words, write what Macbeth means by "To be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus" (scene i, line 48).
2. What are the two reasons for Macbeth's fears about Banquo's character (lines 49-54)?
a
b
3. What is Macbeth's main reason for wishing to be rid of Banquo? (lines 59-71)
4. Macbeth meets with 2 murderers and in secret instructs them to kill Banquo and (lines 135-137)
5. Macbeth is the king, and could order Banquo killed, but he hires the murders because he doesn't want to be connected with the
killing. Why? (lines118-213)
6. Write in your own words what Lady Macbeth means by what she says in scene ii, lines 4-7
7. What reason does Macbeth give for his mind being "full of scorpions" (lines 36-37)?
8. Several times during scene ii Lady Macbeth tries to comfort and encourage Macbeth. Give one example.
9. When Macbeth says in line 45, "Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck," what "knowledge" does he mean?
10. What change in the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth does this (#9) represent?
11. At the beginning of scene iii, the murderers are joined by a third murderer. Who hired him and for what purpose? (lines 1-4)
12. The murderers succeed in killing Banquo, but what happens to Fleance? (scene iii, line 20)
13. Write in your own words what Macbeth means in scene iv, lines 29-31.
14. What unwelcome guest appears at Macbeth's banquet? (scene iv, lines 36-49)
15. What is Macbeth's reaction to this sight, which he alone can see? (lines 48 -52)
6. What explanations does Lady Macbeth give for her husband's behavior? (lines 51-58)

17. Explain	in your own words what Macbeth means in lines 130-131.
18. As a res	ult of his harrowing experience at the banquet, what has Macbeth resolved to do? (lines132-135) Why?
 19. In your	own words, explain what Macbeth means in lines 136 - 148 "I am in blood as tedious as go o'er."
20. In scene	vi, Lennox and a lord discuss the events in Scotland. What do we learn
a.	about Malcolm? (lines 24- 29)
b.	about Macduff ? (lines 29 - 37)

- 1. "Fail not our feast."
 - a. Who said?
 - b. To whom?
 - c. Why ironic?
- 2. "To be thus is nothing; but to be safely thus--"
 - a. Who said?
 - b. Meaning?
- 3. "And in his royalty of nature reigns that Which would be feared..."
 - a. Who said?
 - b. About whom?
 - c. Meaning?
- 4. "Upon my head they've placed a fruitless crown And put a barren scepter in my gripe..."
 - a. Who said?
 - b. why "fruitless" and "barren"?
- 5. "Nought's had, all's spent,
 Where our desire is got without content:"
 - a. who said?
 - b. meaning?
- 6. "Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks; Be bright and jovial among your guests tonight"
 - a. Who said?
 - b. To whom?
 - c. evidence of what theme?
- 7. "O, full of scorpions is my mind..."
 - a. Who said?
 - b. list at least "3 scorpions"

explain why Shakespeare used it here? C. "Thou canst not say that I did it. Never shake 10. They gory locks at me." Who said? a. whose "gory locks"? b. in what way does this line represent the theme Appearance vs. Reality? C. "It will have blood, they say: blood will have blood" 11. a. b. evidence from this act that the statement is true? 12. "I am in blood Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er." Who said? a. **b**. explain how this statement marks the climax of the play. 13. "He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear: And you all know security Is mortal's chiefest enemy." Who said? about whom? b. speaker will "destroy" him how? C.

"Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck..."

represents what shift in relationship?

"But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in

what sound imagery is employed here?

Who said? To whom?

To saucy doubts and fears." Who said?

8.

9.

b.

C.

a.

b.

Scene i

- 1. Lines 1-3 What does Banquo think of Macbeth now?
- 2. Lines 47- 60 What does Macbeth fear from Banquo?
- 3. Lines 93-105 What is the point of Macbeth's extended comparison of men and dogs?
- 4. Lines 128-129 Paraphrase Macbeth's final instructions to the murderers.

Scene ii

5. Lines 43-45 – How have Lady Macbeth and Macbeth changed?

Scene iii

- 6. The identity of the Third Murderer is not made clear. Who could it be?
- 7. Lines 16-18 All other murders in this play have taken place off stage. Why should Banquo's occur on stage?
- 8. Why is Banquo's murder a turning point for Macbeth?

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- 9. Line 25 Why is this line ironic?
- 10. Lines 50-51 How is this statement true? In what way is it false?
- 11. Lines 65-68 Lady Macbeth has resumed her earlier role of taunting Macbeth for being womanly. What is her motivation?
- 12. Lines 128-133 What must Macbeth think of Macduff at this point?

Scene v

13. Why is Macbeth "wayward" in Hecate's eyes?

Scene vi

14. Lines 1-20—What is Lennox's tone here? What does he now think about Duncan's murder?

15. Why did Macduff go to England?