

Macbeth

Act 1 Study Guide

Scenes 1-2

1. Find three examples of foreshadowing in lines from Scene 1. Mark the quote and page number for each. What do these lines have in common?

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2. In Scene 2, what side in the battle did Fortune favor?

3. What did Macbeth do that pleased Duncan?

4. What are the analogies comparing in the following lines?:

- "Yes, as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion" (lines 34-35).
- "They were as cannons overcharged with double cracks..." (lines 36-37).

5. What reward has the king decided to give to Macbeth?

Scene 3

1. Lines 42-46: Beards on women identified them as witches. Banquo vividly describes the witches. What does he notice about them?

2. Lines 48-50: What is surprising about the three titles the witches use to greet Macbeth?
3. Lines 54-57: List evidence that shows what Macbeth thinks of the prophecies:
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4. Lines 65-68: What do the witches predict for Banquo? What do you think their predictions mean?
5. Lines 127-142: Reread Macbeth's aside. Interpret Macbeth's state of mind. Is Macbeth in his right mind? How do you know?

Scene 4

1. Lines 14-21: What do you as readers know that Duncan does not?
2. Lines 28-29: The king plans to give more honors to Macbeth. What might Macbeth be thinking now?
3. Line 39: Now that Malcolm is heir, how might Macbeth react?

Scenes 5 and 6

1. How was Lady Macbeth advised of the witches' prophecies?
2. What is Lady Macbeth's main concern about her husband?

3. On whom does Lady Macbeth call for guidance and strength?
4. What does Lady Macbeth mean by "He that's coming must be provided for"?
5. What is ironic about the way Duncan and Lady Macbeth speak?

Scene 7

1. Why do you think was loyalty to the king especially important in Elizabethan times?
2. How important of an issue do you think disloyalty will become later in the play? Why?
3. Do you feel Macbeth made the right decision in the circumstances? How much sympathy do you have for him now?