

# Macbeth

## Act V Study Guide

### Scene 1

1. Although the doctor does not understand what Lady Macbeth says, we do. To what events earlier in the play do Lady Macbeth's words refer?

2. How do the doctor and the woman help Shakespeare communicate this scene to the audience? Why did he choose not to let Lady Macbeth appear by herself?

3. What feelings do you have toward Lady Macbeth after you have thought about this scene?

### Scene 2

1. How does this scene begin to fulfill one of the witches' prophecies?

2. According to his enemies, to what extent does Macbeth control his subjects?

3. What is the relationship between Macbeth and his army?

### Scene 3

1. What attitude does Macbeth communicate at the beginning of this scene? What words tell you this?

2. What feelings do you have toward Macbeth after this scene?

3. Upon what does Macbeth pin his hope for victory over the opposing forces? What does this hope show about his state of mind?

### Scenes 4, 5 and 6

1. How does Birnam Wood move toward Dunsinane Hill?

2. Contrast the attitude of the soldiers in the English army with that of Macbeth's soldiers

3. In a famous speech (V. V. 21-30), Macbeth describes what he thinks about life. Summarize his ideas.

4. Immediately after he hears about his wife's death, Macbeth learns that Birnam Wood is indeed moving up Dunsinane Hill. What is Macbeth's reaction to this news?

### Scene 7

What is Shakespeare showing in this scene? Why don't Macbeth and Macduff fight at once?

### Scene 8

1. What part of his personality has Macbeth kept throughout the play and into this scene? How do you know?

2. The sword fight between Macbeth and Macduff is the highlight of this scene. How long (in time) do you think the fight should last on stage? Why?

3. As usual, order must be restored at the end of a tragedy. How do the words of Malcolm re-establish order?