

Study Guide *Macbeth-Act 5*

Character Descriptions:

- ❖ Macduff was “ripped” from his mother’s womb.
- ❖ Lady Macbeth tells Duncan’s death causes sleepwalking and compulsively washing hand movements.
- ❖ The doctor is unable to cure the queen.
- ❖ Malcolm suggests they down tree branches to use as camouflage.
- ❖ Macbeth puts on armor even though it is not needed at the time.
- ❖ Young Siward is born of woman; Macbeth is able to slay.

Important Events from Act 5:

- ❖ After Macbeth dies they impale his head on a pike.
- ❖ Malcolm becomes king at the end of the play.
- ❖ The woman in Scene 1 refuses to repeat Lady Macbeth’s sleep-talk to the doctor because there are no witnesses to confirm the truth of her words.
- ❖ Lady Macbeth talks in her sleep about Lady Macduff, King, Duncan, and Banquo.
- ❖ Malcolm order the troops to cut down tree branches to use as camouflage as they near Macbeth’s castle.
- ❖ A messenger tells Macbeth that the forest is coming towards the castle.
- ❖ Macbeth is not afraid of Young Siward because the boy was born from a woman.
- ❖ Macbeth finally realizes that the witches and apparitions deceived him with ambiguous messages.
- ❖ Macbeth and Macduff battle resulting in Macbeth’s death. He fight until the end.
- ❖ Macduff was not born of woman and is able to kill Macbeth.
- ❖ Lady Macbeth exhibits asking things like “will these hands never be clean?”, sleepwalking, and rubbing her hands for 15 minutes at a time.
- ❖ When Lady Macbeth says “Out, damned spot!” the “damned spot” she refers to the blood.
- ❖ As Macbeth’s anxiety grows, he orders the doctor to cure Lady Macbeth.
- ❖ Macbeth’s reaction to his wife’s death shows that he has lost everything and it does not bother him.

Based on a Passage from Act 5 of Macbeth (between The Gentlewoman, the Doctor, and Lady Macbeth):

- ❖ Lady Macbeth mentions, “all of the perfumes of Arabia” because it’s part of a reference regarding her ultimate feelings of guilt.
- ❖ “*I plan to mark what the guest speaker says and recite it later.*” This sentence uses the word *mark* the same way that the doctor uses the term when he says, “*what need we fear who knows it*”.
- ❖ “Go to” is one way of asking someone to leave. The doctor sends the gentlewoman out because he was concerned that the gentlewoman would hear more inappropriate information.
- ❖ Prose is the most typical form of written language, applying ordinary grammatical structure and natural flow of speech rather than rhythmic structure (as in traditional poetry).
- ❖ “*my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard?
What need we fear who knows it,*”
Lady Macbeth is directing this statement at Macbeth.
- ❖ “*Lo you, here she comes! This is her
very guise and, upon my life, fast
asleep. Observe her; stand close.*”
These lines best support the notion that Lady Macbeth is walking in her sleep.
- ❖ Duncan is most likely the “old man” that Lady Macbeth mentions.

Based on a Passage from Act 5 of Macbeth (between Seyton and Lady Macbeth):

- ❖ Doomed is the word that would most accurately replace “poor” to reflect Macbeth’s overall point about life.
- ❖ Flashback is a technique wherein the author depicts the occurrence of specific events to the reader, which have taken place before the present time the narration is following. It is primarily used in order to characterize Macbeth.
- ❖ Macbeth suggests that the cause of his opponent’s military success is due to the fact that some of Macbeth’s men now support the opponent.
- ❖ Life is a very brief, meaningless experience. This theme is best supported by Macbeth’s speech in a passage within the story.
- ❖ The events of the passage are tragic overall.

Based on a Passage from Act 5 of Macbeth (between Macduff and Macbeth):

- ❖ *“To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet.”*
This line is written in perfect iambic pentameter.
- ❖ *“Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cowed my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed.”*
The “juggling fiends” referenced are the witches.
- ❖ What Macbeth says before the fist fight is a matter that is left uncertain.
- ❖ Macbeth feels determined as the passage closes.
- ❖ The fighting and murder mentioned in the stage directions should be the focus of an accurate summary of this passage.
- ❖ The best definition of the term *yield* as it is used in the passage is to give up to an authority (to yield to the enemy).

Based on a Passage from Act 5 of Macbeth (between Siward, Macduff and Malcolm):

- ❖ There is an overall celebratory tone portrayed by those characters present during the scene.
- ❖ Macbeth is being usurped or overthrown.
- ❖ Malcolm suggests that Lady Macbeth commits suicide.
- ❖ Rhyming iambic pentameter best describes the structure of several lines within the passage. Macbeth is being usurped or overthrown.
- ❖ There is an overall celebratory tone portrayed by those characters present during the scene.
- ❖ As the scene closes, Malcolm is headed to Scone in the near future.

Significant Quotes from Macbeth, Act 5:

- ❖ LADY MACBETH: “Out, damned spot!/Out, I say!- One, two./Why, then, ‘tis to do’t./Hell is murky!- Fie, my lord, fie!/A soldier and afraid?/What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?/Yet who would have thought the old man to have so much blood in him.”
- ❖ MACBETH: “Why should I play Roman fool and die,/On mine own sword?/Whiles I see lives, the gashes do better upon them.”
- ❖ DOCTOR : “Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,/Profit again should hardly draw me here.”
- ❖ SIWARD: “Do we but find the tyrant’s power tonight,/Let us be beaten if we cannot fight.”
- ❖ MACBETH: “Bring me no more reports./Let them fly all./Till Birnam Wood remove to Dunsinane, I cannot taint with fear.”
- ❖ MACDUFF : “I have no words./My voice is in my sword./Thou bloodier villain than terms can give thee out!”