

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Macbeth- Act 2



Directions: *Answer the following questions based on Act 2 of Macbeth in complete detailed sentences.*

Scene 1

1. As Act Two opens, Banquo passes his sword and his cloak to his son Fleance. What does this gesture foreshadow?
2. Why might Banquo be troubled by the witches' visit?
3. Describe in some detail what Macbeth sees in the air when he is alone, and explain why he might see it. What does it symbolize?
4. By the end of the scene, has Macbeth determined to kill Duncan, or is he still unsure? What action does he take at the end of the scene?

Scene 2

5. What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says, "That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold"?
6. How is Lady Macbeth different in this scene from the way she's presented herself before?

7. Macbeth is distraught that he could not say “Amen.” Why would this upset him?

8. Macbeth thinks he hears a voice saying “sleep no more, / Macbeth does murder sleep. . . .” For what is sleep a metaphor?

9. Describe Macbeth’s mental state in this scene. How is it different from Lady Macbeth’s? (Use a T chart!)

10. How does Lady Macbeth get blood on her hands, and why is it significant?

Scene 3

11. To what does the porter compare Macbeth’s castle?

12. Explain/summarize the interaction among Macduff, Lennox, and the porter when the porter lets them in. What purpose might this exchange serve?

13. What is Banquo's response to the news of Duncan's death?

14. Lady Macbeth has a fainting spell right after Macbeth has explained why he killed Duncan's attendants. Why might she have chosen this moment to faint?

15. What are Donalbain and Malcolm's reactions to their father's murder, and what do they decide to do?

Scene 4

16. What happened to Duncan's horses? Why is this significant?

17. Who is assumed to have murdered Duncan, and why?

18. What does Ross mean when he says, "Gainst nature still: / Thriftless ambition, that will ravine up / Thine own life's means!"?