

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Macbeth- Act 5



Directions: *Answer the following questions based on Act 5 of Macbeth in complete detailed sentences.*

Scene 1

1. What tortures Lady Macbeth? What parts of her past does she replay?
2. What is the significance of Lady Macbeth's hands in this scene? What does she say about them, and why?
3. What does the doctor mean when he says about Lady Macbeth, "More needs she the divine than the physician"?

Scene 2

4. Where is Macbeth, and what is he doing?
5. What does Angus mean when he says of Macbeth, "now does he feel his title / Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe / Upon a dwarfish thief"?

Scene 3 & 4

6. What purpose does Macbeth's repetition of the apparitions' prophecies serve?
7. How is the tone of Malcom, Macduff, and Siward's battle preparations in Scene Four different from Macbeth's in Scene Three?
8. What does Malcolm suggest the soldiers do with the forest branches? Why?

Scene 5 & 6

9. Characterize Macbeth's response to his wife's death. Why might he respond in this way?
10. Though it is not clear in this scene, how does Lady Macbeth likely die? How is this foreshadowed earlier in the play?
11. In one of the most famous passages from the play, Macbeth says,
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
 Signifying nothing.

Translate/summarize/explain this passage. How does it show Macbeth's state of mind? What is Macbeth's state of mind?

12. What alarms Macbeth? How has he been tricked by the prophecy?

13. Describe Malcolm in Scene Six. What qualities does he seem to have?

Scene 7 & 8

14. To what final hope of his survival does Macbeth cling?

15. What reasons does Macbeth give for not wanting to fight Macduff?

16. Why is Macduff a threat to Macbeth, given the prophecy that Macbeth has nothing to fear from anyone born of a woman?

17. Once Macbeth realizes Macduff will likely kill him, why does he fight him anyway?

18. Does the play end on a hopeful note? Why or why not?