

Study Guide Macbeth- Act 2

Characters:

- Porter pretends he is opening and closing the gates of hell.
- Lady Macbeth returns the daggers to the scene of the crime to frame the servants.
- Macduff discovers the dead king.
- Malcolm flees to England.
- Macbeth hallucinates and sees a dagger covered in blood.
- Donalbain flees to Ireland.

Literary Terms:

- A stanza containing four lines found in such a fourteen-line poem is called a Quatrain.
- A pair of consecutive rhyming lines found in a poem which expresses a complete thought is a couplet.
- A rhythmic pattern found in a line of poetry is called a meter.
- In a play, a character's comment that is heard by the audience but not by the other characters is called an aside.
- Lines written in iambic pentameter have five feet consisting of one unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.
- A humorous scene providing relief from emotional intensity is called comic relief.
- The term used to describe a long speech made by a lone character on the stage in which the audience learns of that character's thoughts and feelings is called a soliloquy.
- Motif is the term used to describe any element that recurs in one or more works of literature or art.

Important Statements:

- The porter's cursing is ironic because he invokes the devil without knowing about the crime.
- Banquo meets with the other nobles in order to discover the purpose of the murder.
- When Banquo says he dreamed about the three weird sisters, Macbeth says he does not think about them.
- When Lady Macbeth returns to Duncan's chamber, she does not kill the guards.
- Both Ross and Macduff do not go to Scone to see Macbeth crowned as king.
- Lady Macbeth says that "a little water" will clear them of their deed.
- Duncan's body is not discovered by Lennox.
- The dagger that Macbeth sees in his Scene 1 soliloquy is part of a hallucination.
- When Lady Macbeth returns to Duncan's chamber, she does not kill the guards.

Events within the Story:

- The suspicion of the murder falls under the king's sons.
- Duncan's body is taken to Colmekill.
- Lady Macbeth makes the mistake of taking the bloody daggers back to the king's chamber after the murder.
- After the king's murder, Macbeth admits that, in a rage, he killed the king's guards.
- The king's sons flee to England and Ireland.
- Macbeth sees a bloody dagger just before Duncan's murder.
- After Duncan's murder, Lady Macbeth implores Macbeth to wash himself, retreat to his room, and let go of his tortured thoughts.
- Banquo's son is Fleance.

- Lady Macbeth makes sure they drink a lot to ensure that the king's guards won't be a problem when they murder the king.
 - Comic relief is the function of the porter's scene.
 - Macduff discovers the murder of the king.
 - Donalbain and Malcolm flee because they believe their lives are in danger.
 - When a bell rings, Lady Macbeth uses this to tell her husband it is time.
 - An apparition is a ghost.
 - Act 2 takes place in Macbeth's castle.
 - When Macbeth talks nervously about the murders, Lady Macbeth tells him to relax and be cool. *"The night has been unruly. Where we lay,/ Our chimneys were blown down and, as they say,/ Lamentings heard i' th' air, strange screams of death,/ And prophesying with accents terrible/ Of dire combustion and confused events/ New hatched to the woeful time. The obscure bird/ Clamored the livelong night. Some say the Earth/ Was feverous and did shake."*
- Lennox's description of the night's storm to Macbeth is an example of personification.

Important Quotes:

- Lady Macbeth: "Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,/ And 'tis not done. Th' attempt and not the deed/ Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;/ He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled/ My father as he slept, I had done 't."
- Macduff : "Murder and treason!/ Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! Awake!/ Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,/And look on death itself! Up, up, and see/ The great doom's image! Malcolm! Banquo!/ As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,/ To countenance this horror! Ring the bell!"
- Macbeth: "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/Clean from my hand?"
- Donalbain: "There's daggers in men's smiles."
- Macbeth: "Is this a dagger which I see before me,/The handle toward my hand?"
- The Porter: "Here's a knocking, indeed! If a man were porter of hell-gate he should have old turning the key. Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of Beelzebub? Here's a farmer that hanged himself on the expectation of plenty."