

## Study Guide

### *Macbeth-Act 3*

#### Character Descriptions:

- Lady Macbeth makes excuses saying her husband sometimes has “visions” and guests should ignore his behavior.
- Macduff joins Malcolm in asking for King Edward’s help in overthrowing Macbeth.
- Macbeth is nervous Duncan’s sons are plotting against his crown.
- Banquo was killed by murderers sent by Macbeth.
- Fleance is blamed for his father’s murder.
- Hecate is the goddess of witchcraft.

#### Important Literary Terms:

- Exaggeration to heighten an effect or create humor is called a hyperbole.
- The most intense moment in a play is called the climax.
- A seemingly contradictory statement is called a paradox.
- A figure of speech that makes a brief reference to a historical or literary figure, event, or object is an allegory.
- A scene is short subdivisions of an act that begin and end with characters entering or exiting the stage.
- A technique of indicating, as through character or plot development, an intention or attitude opposite to that which is actually or evidently stated is called irony.
- A blank verse is an unrhymed but otherwise regular verse, usually in iambic pentameter.

#### Important Events from Act 3:

- Macbeth has suffered by killing Duncan and does not want Banquo’s descendants to reap the reward. Macbeth uses this to justify Banquo’s murder.
- Lady Macbeth likely fears Macbeth will confess to the murder at the feast.
- Banquo’s suspicions of Macbeth are revealed through a soliloquy.
- The best interpretation of Lady Macbeth’s observation that “*tis safer to be that which we destroy/Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy*” is that it is better to be a victim than an aggressor, given the fear of one’s guilt being discovered.
- Hecate is angry with the rest of the witches because they toyed with Macbeth without consulting her.

#### Based on a Passage from Act 3 of Macbeth (between Macbeth, Banquo and a Servant):

- The word guilty would best replace *bloody*.
- Macbeth has a feeling of fright regarding Banquo.
- Even though Macbeth fears Banquo, it is ironic that he masks those feelings with conversation and well-wishes.
- Macbeth compares himself to Mark Anthony.
- *My genius is rebuked; as it is said, Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chide the sisters When first they put the name of king upon me, And bade them speak to him.* In these lines, “he” refers to Banquo.
- A line of kings is not used as a symbol of Macbeth’s successors.

**Based on a Passage from Act 3 of Macbeth (between Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Ross, and Lennox):**

- *Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;*  
*Which must be acted ere they may be scanned.* These lines are an example of a couplet.
- The most important topic to mention in a summary would be Macbeth's reaction to the ghost.
- In the playwright, William Shakespeare, is able to add a supernatural twist to this section of the play by including a ghost.
- We do not learn if Lennox prefer to stay longer here.
- Macduff's absence most concerns Macbeth.

**Significant Quotes from Macbeth, Act 3:**

- Ross: "His absence, sir,/Lays blame upon his promise."
- Murderer: "My lord, his throat is cut."
- Banquo: "Myself should be the root and father/Of many kings."
- Lady Macbeth: "My lord is often thus/And hath been from his youth. Pray you, keep seat./The fit is momentary; upon a thought/He will again be well. If much you note him,/You shall offend him and extend his passion./Feed and regard him not."
- Macbeth: "He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour."
- Lennox: "The right valiant Banquo walk'd too late."