

MacBeth by William Shakespeare

1. Answer these questions about Act 1

1. What were we told about MacBeth's character and actions before we met him?

2. What did the three witches say about the futures of MacBeth and Banquo?

3. Describe how MacBeth and Banquo reacted to the witches' information

4. Lady MacBeth seemed to have a stronger character than her husband. Give examples.

5. Macbeth thought of several reasons for not killing Duncan. Which ones?

6. How did Lady MacBeth persuade her husband to commit the murder?

2. Read Act 2 and answer the questions.

- 1 Banquo was unhappy at the beginning of this act. Why?
- 2 What did Macbeth think that he saw before he committed the murder?
- 3 Describe how Duncan's dead body was discovered.
- 4 How did the following people react to the King's death?
(a) Macduff (b) Malcolm and Donalbain (c) Macbeth
(d) Lady Macbeth
- 5 What reason did Macbeth give for killing Duncan's servants?
What do you think his real reason was?
- 6 In your opinion, did Lady Macbeth really faint or was she acting?
Give reasons for your answer.
- 7 Malcolm was King Duncan's eldest son and heir. Why was Macbeth made king?

3. Read Act 3 and answer the questions.

- 1 Banquo believed that the three witches could foretell the future. How had their words already affected Macbeth and himself?
- 2 Macbeth decided that Banquo must be murdered. Why was that necessary?
- 3 Macbeth did not tell his wife about this murder. Why do you think he decided not to do this?
- 4 Banquo's son, Fleance, escaped. Why was Macbeth so unhappy about that?
- 5 If you were producing the play, would you have an actor come on stage as Banquo's ghost or not? Give reasons for your answer.
- 6 Macbeth made a decision at the end of this act. What was it?
- 7 This decision showed that Macbeth had changed. In what way had he changed?
- 8 People now suspected Macbeth of many murders. Who had decided to bring Macbeth's rule to an end and how did they plan to do it?

4. Read Act 4 and answer the questions

- 1 Why did Macbeth go to see the three witches again?
- 2 What were the witches doing when Macbeth found them?
- 3 The witches' masters told Macbeth about his future. Why was Macbeth reassured by what they said?
- 4 After seeing the three spirits, Macbeth asked the witches a question. What was this question?
- 5 Why was Macbeth horrified by what he saw next?
- 6 Why was Lady Macduff so angry with her husband in the second scene?
- 7 In your opinion, why did Macduff leave his family unprotected in Scotland?
- 8 Why did Malcolm tell Macduff lies about himself?
- 9 What did Macduff pray for?