

### Macbeth Study Guide: ACT 1.1 through ACT 2.2

Directions: Answer the following questions with a complete sentence (or sentences). *(punctuation, spelling, capitalization and grammar all count, so re-read and edit your answers as needed).*

You may consult both the text and your partner for information.

## Act 1

### **Scene1**

1. How many witches are there? What is their final line in this scene and why is it significant to the play?

### **Scene2**

2. Which two characters represent the presence of **rebellion** (internal threat) in Scotland?
3. Which two nations represent the **incursion**, or **invasion** (external threat) to Scotland?
4. Which two men does the (bloody) Captain name as the *heroes of the battle*?
5. What will Macbeth's reward be?

### **Scene 3**

6. What are Macbeth's first words on stage? What do you think he means, exactly? (**Hint:** You must "read between the lines," or interpret the metaphorical

meaning—explain the paradox—that his words represent).

7. Write a sentence that explains the three prophecies (predictions) that the witches give Macbeth and Banquo.

#### **Scene 4**

8. Who will be the next King of Scotland?

#### **Scene 5**

9. Describe Lady Macbeth in one sentence (**use at least three adjectives**).

#### **Scene 7**

10. In a sentence or two, list three of Macbeth's reasons for not killing the King.

11. Why does Macbeth decide to kill the King anyway?

## ACT TWO

### **Scene One**

Banquo meets Macbeth late at night-- Macbeth says \_\_\_\_\_ about the witches and asks Banquo to \_\_\_\_\_.

*How does Banquo answer Macbeth's question?*

### **Scene two**

Lady Macbeth waits for the murder to be done--

*What is her mood?*

Macbeth comes back with the bloody daggers

*What is his mood?*

*Copy down one statement he makes that shows his state of mind **and explain it** (analyze!)*

### **Scene Three**

Macduff shows up to escort the King away and finds him dead.

*Macbeth does something drastic when he runs in to “find” King Duncan’s body-- what is it?*

Malcom and Donalbain (the king’s sons) decide to take off so no one will kill them. *Where do they go?*

## ACT 2

### Scene 1

12. Who is Fleance? Why is he important to the plot of this play?

### Scene 2

13. Locate and consider these words from line 47: **“Macbeth shall sleep no more.”**

Question: What does he mean, exactly?

14. Read Macbeth’s next few lines (the two or three times his character speaks after he talks about not sleeping anymore). **Who** is Macbeth afraid of, and **why**.

15. Read the rest of the scene and notice this:

Macbeth speaks of blood as a metaphor for guilt. Lady Macbeth speaks of blood as just blood. Who do you think is right—in the context of this play? *In other words: will their actual deeds be their undoing, or will it be their guilt? Why do you think this?*

**Explain your idea about this in two or three complete sentences.**

16. How have honor, ambition, guilt, and fate intertwined to bring Macbeth and Lady

Macbeth to the situation we find them in at end of Act 2, scene 2? Write a paragraph or two that explains how you see these themes demonstrated in the words and actions of the play so far. Use at least two short quotations in support of your ideas.

Hints: You might want to create a graphic organizer (boxes/circles/arrows/connecting lines—whatever works for you) to organize your thoughts before you begin to write. Use your own sheet of binder paper for your writing, so that you will have room, and staple it to this study guide when you are finished.