

Act III, Scene I

“I MUST BECOME THE BORROWER OF THE NIGHT
FOR A DARK HOUR OR TWO.”

Vocabulary Help:

Hie - to hurry to hasten, to quicken

Posterity - offspring, children, descendants

Indissoluble - impossible to break or undo, incapable of being cancelled

Define:

Parricide () _____

Rebuke () _____

Scepter () _____

Rancor () _____

Grapple () _____

Answer:

1. Banquo speaks lines 1-10 before any other actor is on stage. What is he saying?
2. Why does Macbeth ask Banquo so many apparently casual questions about where he is riding?
3. What is Macbeth’s meaning in lines 29-32?
4. What is the overall point of Macbeth’s soliloquy in lines 49-70?

Act III, Scene II

“things without all remedy
should be without regard; what’s done is done.”

Vocabulary Help:

Cloister - to remove or separate, to seclude, to sequester

Vizards – masks

Define:

Eminence () _____

Assail () _____

Jocund () _____

Shard () _____

Answer:

1. What is Lady Macbeth saying in lines 9-13?
2. What does Macbeth say that he envies about Duncan?
3. What is the meaning of lines 37-40, exchanged between Macbeth and his wife?

Act III, Scene III

“not a spur the laced traveller apace
to gain the timely inn.”

Vocabulary Help:

Nonpareil - an individual of unequalled excellence, serving as a model

Prithee - please, “I pray thee”

Weal - prosperity, happiness, the welfare of the general good

Define:

Mirth () _____

Appall () _____

Purge () _____

Answer:

1. What do you make of the mysterious “third” murderer?
2. How successful are the murderers in pulling off Macbeth’s orders? Explain your answer in at least 5 sentences.

Act III, Scene IV

“thou canst not say I did it; never shake
thy gory locks at me.”

Vocabulary Help:

Blanched - ashen, pale, colorless

Augers - omens, premonitions, forewarnings

Answer:

1. In what way did Banquo die? In what state must Macbeth see Banquo's ghost, to say **“Never shake thy gory locks at me?”** (Lines 51-52)? If you were directing this stage production, what would you direct the actor playing Banquo's ghost to do during the banquet scene?

2. How does Lady Macbeth react when her husband sees (or believes he sees) Banquo's ghost?

3. What does Macbeth mean when he says, **“We are yet but young in deed”**?

Act III, Scene V and VI

“my little spirit, see,
sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me.”

Vocabulary Help:

Sprite - a benevolent mythical being, a fairy, a pixie

Define:

Spurn - to turn away, to refuse, to reject

Answer:

1. Who or what is Hecate and what does she think of the witches' involvement with Macbeth?
2. Treat Hecate's monologue as a poem. What are the main points? What is the tone, overall? What poetic and literary devices does it employ?
3. What is the importance of the last two lines of Hecate's monologue?
4. In Act 3, Scene 6, Lennox comments on Macbeth's actions. In your own words, try to explain (a) what he says directly and (b) what he really thinks but only hints at.
5. The lord's reply to Lennox contains some interesting information about Macduff. What is this, and how might it affect things in Scotland?

Act III Review



Hecate, Queen of Witches, pre-eminent deity of the ancient nation of Caria, Matron of Midwives, and psychopomp maintains office hours only at night: formal petitions and invitations must be offered after dark. A particularly ancient spirit, the only source of illumination she favors is fire.

Summon Hecate at night by a three-way crossroads. Ideally, light your way with a mullein torch. Offer her garlic, lavender, and honey. If you have a dog, bring it with you. Keep an eye on the dog; it's likely to perceive Hecate, who adores dogs, before you do.

Why would you wish to contact Hecate? Because she can teach you to do anything with magic. Because she can grant you enhanced psychic powers, fertility, romance, protection, freedom from illness, and magical restitution for any crime committed against you.

What does Banquo reveal to us in his opening speech?

Directions: Complete the following paraphrase of Macbeth's soliloquy by filling in the blanks.

To be king means nothing unless I am secure in the position. I have deep _____ about Banquo and his _____.

Banquo is not only daring and courageous, but he has _____ to guide him to act _____. Banquo is the only one I _____.

_____ when they put the name of _____ upon me, and told them to _____; then like a _____ Hailed _____ as the father to _____. The _____ said that I would become _____ but have no successor of my own blood. If this is true, then I have defiled my _____, murdered the _____, _____ disturbed all of my _____ and my _____ (soul) I have given to the common _____ (devil). I did all of this to make way for the _____ of _____ to be kings. _____ rather than let that happen I will fight against _____ (witches' prophecy) to the death!!

Explain how the knowledge of the future has once again driven Macbeth to extreme action.

Do you think Macbeth is foolish to attempt to control what is fated? Or do you think he is acting wisely? Explain your answer.
