

## Act IV, Scene I

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“SHOOT HIS EYES, AND GRIEVE HIS HEART;  
COME LIKE SHADOWS, SO DEPART!”

### Vocabulary Help:

**Fillet** – slice

**Slab** – viscous

**Harped** – hit upon, struck the note of

**Bodements**- Prophecies

**Anticipat’st**- foretold

### Define:

**Exploit** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Pernicious** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vanquish** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Blaspheming** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Answer:

1. What is with this explicit scene of witchcraft? How might it relate to the play’s original performance?
2. See if you can list all of the individual ingredients that go into the witches’ cauldron in the making of their spell. (Lines 5-37 and lines 64-67)
3. What is the point behind Macbeth’s lines 72-83?

4. The witches summon their “masters” to give Macbeth the news of his future. What is each apparition and how might it relate to the prophecy it bears?

5. How does Macbeth feel after hearing the three apparitions?

6. When Macbeth presses the witches about Banquo’s descendants, what do they relent and show him? How does he feel about this?

7. When Macbeth says that “**the flighty purpose never is o’ertook / Unless the deed go with it,**” what does he mean in general and in the particular situation in which he says it?

8. What does Macbeth swear to do in lines 172-175? In what ways do lines 175-177 remind us of Lady Macbeth’s influence on him?

## Act IV, Scene II and Scene III

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“WHEN OUR ACTIONS DO NOT,  
OUR FEARS DO MAKE US TRAITORS.”

### Vocabulary Help:

**Fits o’ th’ season**- disorders of the time

**Gin** – trap

**Enow** – enough

**Withal** – moreover

**Betimes** - Quickly

### Define:

**Homely** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Transpose** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Voluptuous** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Interdiction** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Answer:

1. How does Lady Macduff feel about her husband’s leaving her alone?
2. What do you make of the dialogue between Lady Macduff and her son (lines 31-62)?
3. Explain Lady Macduff’s thought process in lines 74-79 (“whither” generally means “where,” but here seems to more aptly mean “why”).

4. Briefly explain Macduff's description to Malcolm of the state of affairs in Scotland. What does the audience know which makes Macduff's account even more painful?
5. In lines 57-66, Malcolm attempts to convince Macduff that he, himself, is even more evil than Macbeth. What does he say about himself? In lines 114-132, Malcolm reveals that he was lying. What does he say about himself in these lines? Why does he pretend one thing to Macduff and then reveal the truth?
6. There is an account of the miraculous healing powers of the English king- what is the purpose of this?
7. What do you make of Ross first telling Macduff that his wife and children are "**well at peace**" and then shortly after providing the news that they were all "**savagely slaughtered**"?

## Act IV Review

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### The Ghostly Apparitions of Macbeth:

1. How many apparitions are there?

2. What is their purpose?

3. Does it add to the overall macabre atmosphere of the play?



4. How do these ghostly apparitions exemplify the idea of foreshadowing?

5. What are predictions?

6. How can you make predictions in literature?

DRAW PICTURE OF APPARITION	WHAT IS THE PREDICTION?
First Apparition	
Second Apparition	
Third Apparition	

What is Lady Macduff's attitude toward her husband based on the recent events?

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