

Macbeth
Guided Reading Questions
Act One

As you read along with *Macbeth*, please answer the following questions completely to help with a better understanding of the play. You may be asked at a later date to provide these answers again!

1. Why does Duncan (King of Scotland) give the title of Cawdor to Macbeth? (Scene 2)

2. When Banquo and Macbeth meet the witches, what prophecies do the witches make for Macbeth? (Scene 3)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

3. Why do you think the witches' 3rd prophecy make Macbeth "start and seem to fear"? This is GOOD news, so why does he act this way? (Scene 3)

4. What prophecies do the witches make for Banquo? (Scene 3)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

5. Why does Banquo begin to become wary of the witches' prophecies? (Scene 3)

6. What thought or idea does Macbeth say "doth unfix my hair/And make my seated heart knock at my ribs"? How does he then calm himself down? (Scene 3)

7. Who does Duncan name to inherit the throne after his death? Why does upset Macbeth so much? (Scene 4)

8. How does Lady Macbeth learn about the witches' prophecies for Macbeth? What is her reaction? (Scene 5)

9. What character trait does Lady Macbeth worry about that exists within her husband, especially now after finding out about the witches' prophecies? (Scene 5)

10. In her soliloquy at the end of Scene 5, what does Lady Macbeth ask the "spirits" do to her? What does she ask of from the "thick night"?

11. **What advice does Lady Macbeth give Macbeth concerning how he should act in front of King Duncan? (Scene 5)**

12. **12. Explain the irony involved in Duncan's visiting Macbeth's castle and praising it as a peaceful place? (Scene 6)**

13. **In a soliloquy at the beginning of Scene 7, Macbeth lists three reasons why Duncan does not deserve to be murdered. What are they?**
 - 1.

 - 2.

 - 3.

14. **What reason does Macbeth give to Lady Macbeth for refusing to assassinate Duncan? What is his real reason? (Scene 7)**

15. **What taunts and insults does Lady Macbeth use to spur Macbeth to commit the crime? (Scene 7)**

16. **What are the details of the assassination Lady Macbeth suggests? What is shown about Macbeth by his acceptance of it? (Scene 7)**

17. **What quality does Macbeth admire so much within his wife that he declare: "Bring forth men-children only,/For thy undaunted mettle should compose/Nothing but males."? (Scene 7)**