

Macbeth
Guided Reading Questions
Act Three

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. What does Banquo mean when he says of Macbeth's ascension to the throne of Scotland, "...and I fear/Thou played'st most foully for it"? (Scene 1)
2. Macbeth has found out where Malcolm and Donalbain have escaped to. He says that they are not confessing to the murder of their father, but are "filling their hearers/With strange invention." What do you suspect Malcolm and Donalbain are doing? (Scene 1)
3. Why does Macbeth say of Banquo: "There is none but he/Whose being I do fear"? (Scene 1)
4. How does Macbeth convince the two men at the end of Scene 1 to kill Banquo?
5. Why doesn't Macbeth just kill Banquo himself? (Scene 1)
6. Who else does Macbeth tell the men to murder that night? Why? (Scene 1)
7. Why does Macbeth say he envies Duncan? (Scene 2)
8. Why does Macbeth not tell Lady Macbeth about his plans for Banquo and Fleance? How does this signal the beginning of a reversal of roles for husband and wife? (Scene 2)
9. At the end of Scene 1, Macbeth talked with 2 men (murderers). Why does a 3rd murderer join them in Scene 3? Who might this 3rd murderer be?
10. In what way does the murder plan go wrong? (Scene 3)
11. Is Banquo's ghost real or just another hallucination like the dagger from Act 2? Justify your answer! (Scene 4)
12. What excuses does Lady Macbeth make to the lords about Macbeth's weird behavior? (Scene 4)
13. What behavior of Macduff does Macbeth find troubling? (Scene 4)
14. Why does Macbeth want to seek out and talk to the witches again? (Scene 4)
15. What news do we learn about Macduff in Scene 6?