

Macbeth

Act Five

Comprehension Check

Directions: To give you a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the play, answer the following questions using complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to use your Scene Guide to help you.

Scene One

1. Why is a doctor visiting the Macbeth household?
2. What strange behavior has Lady Macbeth been exhibiting? What does she say?
3. What does the Doctor say Lady Macbeth needs? What does he tell Lady Macbeth's gentlewoman to do for her?

Scene Two

1. Who has gathered to fight Macbeth? Where have they planned to meet?
2. What has Macbeth done in response to the insurgence?

Scene Three

1. What is Macbeth thinking about at the beginning of this scene? How does he try to convince himself that he should not be afraid?
2. What does the servant report to Macbeth?
3. What does Macbeth want Seyton to do for him?
4. What does Macbeth tell the Doctor to do for Lady Macbeth? What is the Doctor's reaction to Macbeth's request?

Scene Four

1. What orders does Malcolm give at Birnam? Why is this important?

Scene Five

1. What is Macbeth's reaction to the news of his wife's death?
2. In this scene, Macbeth speaks some of the most famous lines in Shakespeare: "Out, out brief candle! / Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player / That struts his hour upon the stage / And then is heard no more. It is a tale / Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, / Signifying nothing." What does this quote mean and what does it reveal about Macbeth's feelings about life and death? Explain.

Name _____ Period _____

3. What news does the messenger bring to Macbeth? Why is this news unsettling to him?

Scene Six (none)

Scene Seven

1. Who does Macbeth kill and why does Macbeth feel he is now safe?
2. Who shows up looking for Macbeth?

Scene Eight

1. Why does Macbeth hesitate to kill Macduff?
2. What do we learn about Macduff?
3. How does Macbeth regain some sense of manhood in his last moments of life?
4. What news does Ross break to Old Siward?
5. What trophy does Macduff bring to the people of Scotland?
6. Who becomes King? Why is this ending surprising, considering the witches' predictions?
7. Were the witches' predictions real? Believable? Are the witches to blame for Macbeth's eventual death? Why or why not? Explain your thoughts on the predictions, Macbeth's actions, and ending of the story.