

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

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Plot Overview

The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of witches and then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King Duncan hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and Banquo, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland, led by the rebel Macdonwald, and one from Norway. Following their pitched battle with these enemy forces, Macbeth and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be made thane (a rank of Scottish nobility) of Cawdor and eventually King of Scotland. They also prophesy that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will beget a line of Scottish kings, although Banquo will never be king himself. The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their prophecies skeptically until some of King Duncan's men come to thank the two generals for their victories in battle and to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named thane of Cawdor. The previous thane betrayed Scotland by fighting for the Norwegians and Duncan has condemned him to death. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the remainder of the witches' prophecy—that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits with King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth's castle, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her all that has happened.

Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to murder Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections and persuades him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenseless, as they will remember nothing. While Duncan is asleep, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts and a number of supernatural portents, including a vision of a bloody dagger. When Duncan's death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth kills the chamberlains—ostensibly out of rage at their crime—and easily assumes the kingship. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain flee to England and Ireland, respectively, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires their demise as well.

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's heirs will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who escapes into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure. At the feast that night, Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. Lady Macbeth tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship incites increasing resistance from his nobles and subjects. Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches in their cavern. There, they show him a sequence of demons and spirits who present him with further prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's accession to the throne; he is incapable of being harmed by any man born of woman; and he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that Lady Macduff and her children be murdered.

When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows revenge. Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to Scotland to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical and murderous behavior. Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of sleepwalking in which she bemoans what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has killed herself, causing him to sink into a deep and pessimistic despair. Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his invincibility. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' prophecy.

In the battle, Macbeth hews violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not “of woman born” but was instead “untimely ripped” from his mother’s womb (what we now call birth by cesarean section). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him. Malcolm, now the King of Scotland, declares his benevolent intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned at Scone.

Character List

Macbeth - Macbeth is a Scottish general and the thane of Glamis who is led to wicked thoughts by the prophecies of the three witches, especially after their prophecy that he will be made thane of Cawdor comes true. Macbeth is a brave soldier and a powerful man, but he is not a virtuous one. He is easily tempted into murder to fulfill his ambitions to the throne, and once he commits his first crime and is crowned King of Scotland, he embarks on further atrocities with increasing ease. Ultimately, Macbeth proves himself better suited to the battlefield than to political intrigue, because he lacks the skills necessary to rule without being a tyrant. His response to every problem is violence and murder. Unlike Shakespeare’s great villains, such as Iago in *Othello* and Richard III in *Richard III*, Macbeth is never comfortable in his role as a criminal. He is unable to bear the psychological consequences of his atrocities.

Lady Macbeth - Macbeth’s wife, a deeply ambitious woman who lusts for power and position. Early in the play she seems to be the stronger and more ruthless of the two, as she urges her husband to kill Duncan and seize the crown. After the bloodshed begins, however, Lady Macbeth falls victim to guilt and madness to an even greater degree than her husband. Her conscience affects her to such an extent that she eventually commits suicide. Interestingly, she and Macbeth are presented as being deeply in love, and many of Lady Macbeth’s speeches imply that her influence over her husband is primarily sexual. Their joint alienation from the world, occasioned by their partnership in crime, seems to strengthen the attachment that they feel to each other.

The Three Witches - Three “black and midnight hags” who plot mischief against Macbeth using charms, spells, and prophecies. Their predictions prompt him to murder Duncan, to order the deaths of Banquo and his son, and to blindly believe in his own immortality. The play leaves the witches’ true identity unclear—aside from the fact that they are servants of Hecate, we know little about their place in the cosmos. In some ways they resemble the mythological Fates, who impersonally weave the threads of human destiny. They clearly take a perverse delight in using their knowledge of the future to toy with and destroy human beings.

Banquo - The brave, noble general whose children, according to the witches’ prophecy, will inherit the Scottish throne. Like Macbeth, Banquo thinks ambitious thoughts, but he does not translate those thoughts into action. In a sense, Banquo’s character stands as a rebuke to Macbeth, since he represents the path Macbeth chose not to take: a path in which ambition need not lead to betrayal and murder. Appropriately, then, it is Banquo’s ghost—and not Duncan’s—that haunts Macbeth. In addition to embodying Macbeth’s guilt for killing Banquo, the ghost also reminds Macbeth that he did not emulate Banquo’s reaction to the witches’ prophecy.

King Duncan - The good King of Scotland whom Macbeth, in his ambition for the crown, murders. Duncan is the model of a virtuous, benevolent, and farsighted ruler. His death symbolizes the destruction of an order in Scotland that can be restored only when Duncan’s line, in the person of Malcolm, once more occupies the throne.

Macduff - A Scottish nobleman hostile to Macbeth’s kingship from the start. He eventually becomes a leader of the crusade to unseat Macbeth. The crusade’s mission is to place the rightful king, Malcolm, on the throne, but Macduff also desires vengeance for Macbeth’s murder of Macduff’s wife and young son.

Malcolm - The son of Duncan, whose restoration to the throne signals Scotland’s return to order following Macbeth’s reign of terror. Malcolm becomes a serious challenge to Macbeth with Macduff’s aid (and the support of England). Prior to this, he appears weak and uncertain of his own power, as when he and Donalbain flee Scotland after their father’s murder.

Hecate - The goddess of witchcraft, who helps the three witches work their mischief on Macbeth.

Fleance - Banquo's son, who survives Macbeth's attempt to murder him. At the end of the play, Fleance's whereabouts are unknown. Presumably, he may come to rule Scotland, fulfilling the witches' prophecy that Banquo's sons will sit on the Scottish throne.

Lennox - A Scottish nobleman.

Ross - A Scottish nobleman.

The Murderers - A group of ruffians conscripted by Macbeth to murder Banquo, Fleance (whom they fail to kill), and Macduff's wife and children.

Porter - The drunken doorman of Macbeth's castle.

Lady Macduff - Macduff's wife. The scene in her castle provides our only glimpse of a domestic realm other than that of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. She and her home serve as contrasts to Lady Macbeth and the hellish world of Inverness.

Donalbain - Duncan's son and Malcolm's younger brother.

Analysis of Major Characters

Macbeth

Because we first hear of Macbeth in the wounded captain's account of his battlefield valor, our initial impression is of a brave and capable warrior. This perspective is complicated, however, once we see Macbeth interact with the three witches. We realize that his physical courage is joined by a consuming ambition and a tendency to self-doubt—the prediction that he will be king brings him joy, but it also creates inner turmoil. These three attributes—bravery, ambition, and self-doubt—struggle for mastery of Macbeth throughout the play. Shakespeare uses Macbeth to show the terrible effects that ambition and guilt can have on a man who lacks strength of character. We may classify Macbeth as irrevocably evil, but his weak character separates him from Shakespeare's great villains—Iago in *Othello*, Richard III in *Richard III*, Edmund in *King Lear*—who are all strong enough to conquer guilt and self-doubt. Macbeth, great warrior though he is, is ill equipped for the psychic consequences of crime.

Before he kills Duncan, Macbeth is plagued by worry and almost aborts the crime. It takes Lady Macbeth's steely sense of purpose to push him into the deed. After the murder, however, her powerful personality begins to disintegrate, leaving Macbeth increasingly alone. He fluctuates between fits of fevered action, in which he plots a series of murders to secure his throne, and moments of terrible guilt (as when Banquo's ghost appears) and absolute pessimism (after his wife's death, when he seems to succumb to despair). These fluctuations reflect the tragic tension within Macbeth: he is at once too ambitious to allow his conscience to stop him from murdering his way to the top and too conscientious to be happy with himself as a murderer. As things fall apart for him at the end of the play, he seems almost relieved—with the English army at his gates, he can finally return to life as a warrior, and he displays a kind of reckless bravado as his enemies surround him and drag him down. In part, this stems from his fatal confidence in the witches' prophecies, but it also seems to derive from the fact that he has returned to the arena where he has been most successful and where his internal turmoil need not affect him—namely, the battlefield. Unlike many of Shakespeare's other tragic heroes, Macbeth never seems to contemplate suicide: "Why should I play the Roman fool," he asks, "and die / On mine own sword?" (5.10.1–2). Instead, he goes down fighting, bringing the play full circle: it begins with Macbeth winning on the battlefield and ends with him dying in combat.

Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's most famous and frightening female characters. When we first see her, she is already plotting Duncan's murder, and she is stronger, more ruthless, and more ambitious than her husband. She seems fully aware of this and knows that she will have to push Macbeth into committing murder. At one point, she wishes that she were not a woman so that she could do it herself. This theme of the relationship between gender and power is key to Lady Macbeth's character: her husband implies that she is a masculine soul inhabiting a female body, which seems to link masculinity to ambition and violence. Shakespeare, however, seems to use her, and the witches,

to undercut Macbeth's idea that "undaunted mettle should compose / Nothing but males" (1.7.73–74). These crafty women use *female* methods of achieving power—that is, manipulation—to further their supposedly male ambitions. Women, the play implies, can be as ambitious and cruel as men, yet social constraints deny them the means to pursue these ambitions on their own.

Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband with remarkable effectiveness, overriding all his objections; when he hesitates to murder, she repeatedly questions his manhood until he feels that he must commit murder to prove himself. Lady Macbeth's remarkable strength of will persists through the murder of the king—it is she who steadies her husband's nerves immediately after the crime has been perpetrated. Afterward, however, she begins a slow slide into madness—just as ambition affects her more strongly than Macbeth before the crime, so does guilt plague her more strongly afterward. By the close of the play, she has been reduced to sleepwalking through the castle, desperately trying to wash away an invisible bloodstain. Once the sense of guilt comes home to roost, Lady Macbeth's sensitivity becomes a weakness, and she is unable to cope. Significantly, she (apparently) kills herself, signaling her total inability to deal with the legacy of their crimes.

The Three Witches

Throughout the play, the witches—referred to as the "weird sisters" by many of the characters—lurk like dark thoughts and unconscioustemptations to evil. In part, the mischief they cause stems from their supernatural powers, but mainly it is the result of their understanding of the weaknesses of their specific interlocutors—they play upon Macbeth's ambition like puppeteers.

The witches' beards, bizarre potions, and rhymed speech make them seem slightly ridiculous, like caricatures of the supernatural. Shakespeare has them speak in rhyming couplets throughout (their most famous line is probably "Double, double, toil and trouble, / Fire burn and cauldron bubble" in 4.1.10–11), which separates them from the other characters, who mostly speak in blank verse. The witches' words seem almost comical, like malevolent nursery rhymes. Despite the absurdity of their "eye of newt and toe of frog" recipes, however, they are clearly the most dangerous characters in the play, being both tremendously powerful and utterly wicked (4.1.14).

The audience is left to ask whether the witches are independent agents toying with human lives, or agents of fate, whose prophecies are only reports of the inevitable. The witches bear a striking and obviously intentional resemblance to the Fates, female characters in both Norse and Greek mythology who weave the fabric of human lives and then cut the threads to end them. Some of their prophecies seem self-fulfilling. For example, it is doubtful that Macbeth would have murdered his king without the push given by the witches' predictions. In other cases, though, their prophecies are just remarkably accurate readings of the future—it is hard to see Birnam Wood coming to Dunsinane as being self-fulfilling in any way. The play offers no easy answers. Instead, Shakespeare keeps the witches well outside the limits of human comprehension. They embody an unreasoning, instinctive evil.

Themes

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work.

The Corrupting Power of Unchecked Ambition

The main theme of *Macbeth*—the destruction wrought when ambition goes unchecked by moral constraints—finds its most powerful expression in the play's two main characters. Macbeth is a courageous Scottish general who is not naturally inclined to commit evil deeds, yet he deeply desires power and advancement. He kills Duncan against his better judgment and afterward stews in guilt and paranoia. Toward the end of the play he descends into a kind of frantic, boastful madness. Lady Macbeth, on the other hand, pursues her goals with greater determination, yet she is less capable of withstanding the repercussions of her immoral acts. One of Shakespeare's most forcefully drawn female characters, she spurs her husband mercilessly to kill Duncan and urges him to be strong in the murder's aftermath, but she is eventually driven to distraction by the effect of Macbeth's repeated bloodshed on her conscience. In each case, ambition—helped, of course, by the malign prophecies of the witches—is what drives the couple to ever

more terrible atrocities. The problem, the play suggests, is that once one decides to use violence to further one's quest for power, it is difficult to stop. There are always potential threats to the throne—Banquo, Fleance, Macduff—and it is always tempting to use violent means to dispose of them.

The Relationship Between Cruelty and Masculinity

Characters in *Macbeth* frequently dwell on issues of gender. Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband by questioning his manhood, wishes that she herself could be “unsexed,” and does not contradict Macbeth when he says that a woman like her should give birth only to boys. In the same manner that Lady Macbeth goads her husband on to murder, Macbeth provokes the murderers he hires to kill Banquo by questioning their manhood. Such acts show that both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth equate masculinity with naked aggression, and whenever they converse about manhood, violence soon follows. Their understanding of manhood allows the political order depicted in the play to descend into chaos.

At the same time, however, the audience cannot help noticing that women are also sources of violence and evil. The witches' prophecies spark Macbeth's ambitions and then encourage his violent behavior; Lady Macbeth provides the brains and the will behind her husband's plotting; and the only divine being to appear is Hecate, the *goddess* of witchcraft. Arguably, *Macbeth* traces the root of chaos and evil to women, which has led some critics to argue that this is Shakespeare's most misogynistic play. While the male characters are just as violent and prone to evil as the women, the aggression of the female characters is more striking because it goes against prevailing expectations of how women ought to behave. Lady Macbeth's behavior certainly shows that women can be as ambitious and cruel as men. Whether because of the constraints of her society or because she is not fearless enough to kill, Lady Macbeth relies on deception and manipulation rather than violence to achieve her ends.

Ultimately, the play does put forth a revised and less destructive definition of manhood. In the scene where Macduff learns of the murders of his wife and child, Malcolm consoles him by encouraging him to take the news in “manly” fashion, by seeking revenge upon Macbeth. Macduff shows the young heir apparent that he has a mistaken understanding of masculinity. To Malcolm's suggestion, “Dispute it like a man,” Macduff replies, “I shall do so. But I must also feel it as a man” (4.3.221–223). At the end of the play, Siward receives news of his son's death rather complacently. Malcolm responds: “He's worth more sorrow [than you have expressed] / And that I'll spend for him” (5.11.16–17). Malcolm's comment shows that he has learned the lesson Macduff gave him on the sentient nature of true masculinity. It also suggests that, with Malcolm's coronation, order will be restored to the Kingdom of Scotland.

The Difference Between Kingship and Tyranny

In the play, Duncan is always referred to as a “king,” while Macbeth soon becomes known as the “tyrant.” The difference between the two types of rulers seems to be expressed in a conversation that occurs in Act 4, scene 3, when Macduff meets Malcolm in England. In order to test Macduff's loyalty to Scotland, Malcolm pretends that he would make an even worse king than Macbeth. He tells Macduff of his reproachable qualities—among them a thirst for personal power and a violent temperament, both of which seem to characterize Macbeth perfectly. On the other hand, Malcolm says, “The king-becoming graces / [are] justice, verity, temp'rance, stableness, / Bounty, perseverance, mercy, [and] lowliness” (4.3.92–93). The model king, then, offers the kingdom an embodiment of order and justice, but also comfort and affection. Under him, subjects are rewarded according to their merits, as when Duncan makes Macbeth thane of Cawdor after Macbeth's victory over the invaders. Most important, the king must be loyal to Scotland above his own interests. Macbeth, by contrast, brings only chaos to Scotland—symbolized in the bad weather and bizarre supernatural events—and offers no real justice, only a habit of capriciously murdering those he sees as a threat. As the embodiment of tyranny, he must be overcome by Malcolm so that Scotland can have a true king once more.

Motifs

Hallucinations

Visions and hallucinations recur throughout the play and serve as reminders of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's joint culpability for the growing body count. When he is about to kill Duncan, Macbeth sees a dagger floating in the air. Covered with blood and pointed toward the king's chamber, the dagger represents the bloody course on which Macbeth is about to embark. Later, he sees Banquo's ghost sitting in a chair at a feast, pricking his conscience by mutely reminding him that he murdered his former friend. The seemingly hardheaded Lady Macbeth also eventually gives way to visions, as she sleepwalks and believes that her hands are stained with blood that cannot be washed away by any amount of water. In each case, it is ambiguous whether the vision is real or purely hallucinatory; but, in both cases, the Macbeths read them uniformly as supernatural signs of their guilt.

Violence

Macbeth is a famously violent play. Interestingly, most of the killings take place offstage, but throughout the play the characters provide the audience with gory descriptions of the carnage, from the opening scene where the captain describes Macbeth and Banquo wading in blood on the battlefield, to the endless references to the bloodstained hands of Macbeth and his wife. The action is bookended by a pair of bloody battles: in the first, Macbeth defeats the invaders; in the second, he is slain and beheaded by Macduff. In between is a series of murders: Duncan, Duncan's chamberlains, Banquo, Lady Macduff, and Macduff's son all come to bloody ends. By the end of the action, blood seems to be everywhere.

Prophecy

Prophecy sets *Macbeth*'s plot in motion—namely, the witches' prophecy that Macbeth will become first thane of Cawdor and then king. The weird sisters make a number of other prophecies: they tell us that Banquo's heirs will be kings, that Macbeth should beware Macduff, that Macbeth is safe till Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane, and that no man born of woman can harm Macbeth. Save for the prophecy about Banquo's heirs, all of these predictions are fulfilled within the course of the play. Still, it is left deliberately ambiguous whether some of them are self-fulfilling—for example, whether Macbeth wills himself to be king or is fated to be king. Additionally, as the Birnam Wood and “born of woman” prophecies make clear, the prophecies must be interpreted as riddles, since they do not always mean what they seem to mean.

Symbols

Blood

Blood is everywhere in *Macbeth*, beginning with the opening battle between the Scots and the Norwegian invaders, which is described in harrowing terms by the wounded captain in Act 1, scene 2. Once Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embark upon their murderous journey, blood comes to symbolize their guilt, and they begin to feel that their crimes have stained them in a way that cannot be washed clean. “Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?” Macbeth cries after he has killed Duncan, even as his wife scolds him and says that a little water will do the job (2.2.58–59). Later, though, she comes to share his horrified sense of being stained: “Out, damned spot; out, I say . . . who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?” she asks as she wanders through the halls of their castle near the close of the play (5.1.30–34). Blood symbolizes the guilt that sits like a permanent stain on the consciences of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, one that hounds them to their graves.

The Weather

As in other Shakespearean tragedies, Macbeth's grotesque murder spree is accompanied by a number of unnatural occurrences in the natural realm. From the thunder and lightning that accompany the witches' appearances to the

terrible storms that rage on the night of Duncan's murder, these violations of the natural order reflect corruption in the moral and political orders.

Summary

Act 1

The play takes place in Scotland. Duncan, the king of Scotland, is at war with the king of Norway. As the play opens, he learns of Macbeth's bravery in a victorious battle against Macdonald—a Scot who sided with the Norwegians. At the same time, news arrives concerning the arrest of the treacherous Thane of Cawdor. Duncan decides to give the title of Thane of Cawdor to Macbeth.

As Macbeth and Banquo return home from battle, they meet three witches. The witches predict that Macbeth will be thane of Cawdor and king of Scotland, and that Banquo will be the father of kings. After the witches disappear, Macbeth and Banquo meet two noblemen, Ross and Angus, who announce Macbeth's new title as thane of Cawdor. Upon hearing this, Macbeth begins to contemplate the murder of Duncan in order to realize the witches' second prophecy.

Macbeth and Banquo meet with Duncan, who announces that he is going to pay Macbeth a visit at his castle. Macbeth rides ahead to prepare his household. Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth receives a letter from Macbeth informing her of the witches' prophesy and its subsequent realization. A servant appears to inform her of Duncan's approach. Energized by the news, Lady Macbeth invokes supernatural powers to strip her of feminine softness and thus prepare her for the murder of Duncan. When Macbeth arrives, Lady Macbeth tells him that she will plot Duncan's murder.

When Duncan arrives at the castle, Lady Macbeth greets him alone. When Macbeth fails to appear, Lady Macbeth finds him in his room, contemplating the weighty and evil decision to kill Duncan. Lady Macbeth taunts him by telling him that he will only be a man if he kills Duncan. She then tells him her plan for the murder, which Macbeth accepts: they will kill him while his drunken bodyguards sleep, then plant incriminating evidence on the bodyguards.

Act 2

Macbeth sees a vision of a bloody dagger floating before him, leading him to Duncan's room. When he hears Lady Macbeth ring the bell to signal the completion of her preparations, Macbeth sets out to complete his part in the murderous plan.

Lady Macbeth waits for Macbeth to finish the act of regicide. Macbeth enters, still carrying the bloody daggers. Lady Macbeth again chastises him for his weak-mindedness and plants the daggers on the bodyguards herself. While she does so, Macbeth imagines that he hears a haunting voice saying that he shall sleep no more. Lady Macbeth returns and assures Macbeth that "a little water clears us of this deed" (II ii 65).

As the thanes Macduff and Lennox arrive, the porter pretends that he is guarding the gate to hell. Immediately thereafter, Macduff discovers Duncan's dead body. Macbeth kills the two bodyguards, claiming that he was overcome with a fit of grief and rage when he saw them with the bloody daggers. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain, fearing their lives to be in danger, flee to England and Ireland. Their flight brings them under suspicion of conspiring against Duncan. Macbeth is thus crowned king of Scotland.

Act 3

In an attempt to thwart the witches' prophesy that Banquo will father kings, Macbeth hires two murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. Lady Macbeth is left uninformed of these plans. A third murderer joins the other two on the heath and the three men kill Banquo. Fleance, however, manages to escape.

Banquo's ghost appears to Macbeth as he sits down to a celebratory banquet, sending him into a frenzy of terror. Lady Macbeth attempts to cover up for his odd behavior but the banquet comes to a premature end as the thanes begin to question Macbeth's sanity. Macbeth decides that he must revisit the witches to look into the future once more.

Meanwhile, Macbeth's thanes begin to turn against him. Macduff meets Malcolm in England to prepare an army to march on Scotland.

Act 4

The witches show Macbeth three apparitions. The first warns him against Macduff, the second tells him to fear no man born of woman, and the third prophesizes that he will fall only when Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane castle. Macbeth takes this as a prophecy that he is infallible. When he asks the witches if their prophesy about Banquo will come true, they show him a procession of eight kings, all of whom look like Banquo.

Meanwhile in England, Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty by pretending to confess to multiple sins and malicious ambitions. When Macduff proves his loyalty to Scotland, the two strategize for their offensive against Macbeth. Back in Scotland, Macbeth has Macduff's wife and children murdered.

Act 5

Lady Macbeth suffers from bouts of sleepwalking. To a doctor who observes her symptoms, she unwittingly reveals her guilt as she pronounces that she cannot wash her hands clean of bloodstains. Macbeth is too preoccupied with battle preparations to pay much heed to her dreams and expresses anger when the doctor says he cannot cure her. Just as the English army led by Malcolm, Macduff, Siward approaches, Lady Macbeth's cry of death is heard in the castle. When Macbeth hears of her death, he comments that she should have died at a future date and muses on the meaninglessness of life.

Taking the witches' second prophecies in good faith, Macbeth still believes that he is impregnable to the approaching army. But Malcolm has instructed each man in the English army to cut a tree branch from Birnam Wood and hold it up to disguise the army's total numbers. As a result, Macbeth's servant reports that he has seen a seemingly impossible sight: Birnam Wood seems to be moving toward the castle. Macbeth is shaken but still engages the oncoming army.

In battle, Macbeth kills Young Siward, the English general's brave son. Macduff then challenges Macbeth. As they fight, Macduff reveals that he was not "of woman born" but was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (V x 13-16). Macbeth is stunned but refuses to yield to Macduff. Macduff kills him and decapitates him. At the end of the play, Malcolm is proclaimed the new king of Scotland.

1. Who kills Macbeth?

- a. Macduff b. Banquo c. Lady Macbeth d. Malcolm

2. How many men reign as king of Scotland throughout the play?

- a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4

3. Whom does Lady Macbeth frame for the murder of Duncan?

- a. Malcolm and Donalbain b. Duncan's drunken chamberlains c. The porter d. Macbeth Macbeth

4. Who kills Banquo?

- a. Macduff b. Fleance c. Macbeth d. A group of murderers hired by Macbeth

5. Which of the following best describes Lady Macbeth's death?

- a. She dies offstage
b. She sleepwalks off of the palace wall.
c. She declares her own guilt and stabs herself with a knife.
d. Macduff slays her in revenge for his own wife's murder.

6. Who discovers Duncan's body?

- a. Lennox b. Ross c. Macduff d. Donalbain

7. Whom does Macbeth see sitting in his chair during the banquet?

- a. himself b. Banquo's ghost c. Duncan's ghost d. Lady Macbeth

8. What vision does Macbeth have before he kills Duncan?

- a. He sees a floating head urging him to spill blood.
b. He sees a bloody axe lodged in Duncan's brow
c. He sees a pale maiden weeping in the moonlight.
d. He sees a floating dagger pointing him to Duncan's chamber

9. With whom are the Scots at war at the beginning of the play?

- a. Norway b. Denmark c. Poland d. Finland

10. Which nation's army invades Scotland at the end of the play?

- a. Norway b. France c. England d. Finland

11. Who is the goddess of witchcraft in the play?

- a. Aphrodite b. Hecate c. Minerva d. Mordred

12. Who kills Donalbain?

- a. Macbeth b. Malcolm c. A group of murderers hired by Macbeth d. No one.

13. What happens to Lady Macbeth before she dies?

- a. She is plagued by fits of sleepwalking b. She is haunted by the ghost of Duncan
c. She sees her children killed in battle d. She sees her children killed by Macbeth

14. Who kills Lord Siward's son?

- a. Duncan b. Lennox **c. Macbeth** d. Ross

15. Where are Scottish kings crowned?

- a. Edinburgh **b. Scone** c. London d. Dunsinane

16. Why is Macduff able to kill Macbeth despite the witches' prophecy?

- a. He kills the witches first b. He receives a charm from Grinswindle
c. He is a powerful warlock himself **d. He was born by cesarean section**

17. Where is Duncan killed?

- a. In the battle with Norway **b. In his bedchamber at Macbeth's castle**
c. In his bedchamber at Forres d. At Birnam Wood

18. Who flees Scotland to join Malcolm in England?

- a. Donalbain b. Ross **c. Macduff** d. Lennox

19. What was the weather like the night Duncan was murdered?

- a. Stormy and violent** b. Calm and placid
c. Foggy and ominous d. It was a night like any other night, according to Lennox

20. Who kills Lady Macbeth?

- a. Macbeth b. Macduff c. Lady Macduff **d. Lady Macbeth**

21. Who flees Scotland immediately after Duncan's death?

- a. Macbeth **b. Malcolm and Donalbain** c. Fleance d. Lennox

22. Who jokes that he works at "hell gate"?

- a. Macbeth b. Macduff **c. The porter** d. Duncan

23. What title is Macbeth given after his victory described in Act 1?

- a. Thane of Cawdor** b. Thane of Ross c. King of Scotland d. Prince of Cumberland

24. Who tells Macduff that his family has been killed?

- a. Donalbain b. Macbeth c. Lady Macduff **d. Ross**

25. How does Birnam Wood come to Dunsinane?

- a. By magic b. Through an earthquake
c. It doesn't **d. Malcolm's army hides behind cut-off tree branches**

26. What does Macbeth do to Macdonald after he defeats him?

- a. Rips out his heart b. He takes him prisoner and brings him to Duncan
c. Cuts off his head and places it on the battlements d. Takes his family crest and title

27. What new title does Macbeth receive early in Act one?

- a. Thane of Glamis **b. Thane of Cawdor** c. King of Scotland d. Earl of Northumberland

28. The Weird Sisters greet Macbeth as _____.

- a. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, and King hereafter
- b. Thane of Cawdor, Thane of Fife, and King hereafter
- c. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Fife, and father of kings
- d. Thane of Cawdor, Thane of Lochaber, and Thane of Glamis

29. How do the Weird Sisters greet Banquo?

- a. "Thou shalt be king of Scotland"
- b. "Hail, king hereafter!"
- c. "Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none."
- d. "O valiant cousin!"

30. Who does Duncan name as his successor?

- a. Banquo
- b. Macbeth
- c. Macduff
- d. Malcolm

31. Lady Macbeth calls on supernatural powers to _____.

- a. "unsex me here"
- b. "sleek o'er your rugged looks"
- c. hover through fog and filthy air"
- d. "beguile the time"

32. Who will the Macbeths frame as Duncan's murderer?

- a. Duncan's bodyguards
- b. Donalbain
- c. Banquo
- d. Macduff

33. Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth "When you durst do it, then _____."

- a. you were a man
- b. wilt thou be king
- c. will I love you
- d. 'twere well it were done quickly

34. What does Lady Macbeth say she would do with her child if she had to?

- a. Abandon it
- b. Give up her life for it
- c. Cut off its head
- d. Dash its brains out

35. What does Banquo think about the witches' predictions?

- a. He wishes they would not come true
- b. He dreams that they may come true, but he will do nothing about them
- c. He doesn't believe them
- d. He will try to make them come true, no matter what it takes

36. What does Macbeth think he sees floating in front of him as he goes to kill Duncan?

- a. A bloody child
- b. A bloody sword
- c. A bloody dagger
- d. A bloody head

37. What can't Macbeth say when he hears the bodyguards praying?

- a. "Amen" b. "Avaunt thee" c. "God bless us" d. "Sleep no more"

38. Where does the porter imagine he is guarding the gate?

- a. The castle at Fife b. The gate to Heaven
c. The gate to Hell d. The palace at Dunsinane

39. Who discovers Duncan's body?

- a. Macbeth b. Macduff c. Malcolm d. Ross

40. What do Malcolm and Donalbain decide they will do when Duncan is murdered?

- a. Kill the bodyguards b. Kill Macbeth
c. Flee to England and Ireland d. Avenge his death

41. Who is proclaimed king after Duncan is murdered?

- a. Banquo b. Macbeth c. Macduff d. Malcolm

42. Who will kill Banquo?

- a. Duncan's bodyguards b. The three witches
c. Macbeth d. Two murderers

43. The two murderers are joined by _____.

- a. Seyton b. The three witches c. Macbeth d. A third murderer

44. What is going on at Macbeth's castle while the murderers are killing Banquo?

- a. A feast b. Macbeth's coronation
c. Duncan's murder d. Plans for killing Lady Macduff

45. What vision does Macbeth see at the table?

- a. A bloody child b. Banquo's ghost c. A bloody dagger d. Duncan's head

46. What does the first apparition tell Macbeth?

- a. "Beware Banquo!" b. "Beware Siward!"
c. "Beware Macduff!" d. "Beware Malcolm!"

47. What does the second apparition tell Macbeth?

- a. "None of woman born shall become king."
b. "None of woman born shall beware thee"

c. "None of woman born shall take Dunsinane"

d. "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth"

48. What does the third apparition tell Macbeth?

a. that he should travel from Dunsinane to Birnam Wood

b. that he will fall when Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane

c. that he is safe as long as he stays at Dunsinane

49. What is the last vision that the witches show Macbeth?

a. Macduff's head

b. A procession of eight kings

c. A stain on his hand

d. A procession of bloody corpses

50. Who warns Lady Macduff to leave her house?

a. A Weird Sister

b. Macduff

c. A Messenger

d. Malcolm

51. After he has murdered King Duncan, Macbeth has forgotten to do something and Lady Macbeth goes to do it for him. What has he forgotten?

a. To shout to the guests that there has been a murder.

b. To close the door of Duncan's chamber.

c. To leave the weapon at the scene and smear the chamberlains with blood.

52. What is Macbeth's title at the very beginning of the play?

a. Thane of Glamis

b. Thane of Cawdor

c. Duke of Birnam

53. What is the name of Banquo's son?

a. Fleance

b. Ross

c. Malcolm

54. When we first meet Lady Macbeth, she and her husband are told they are to have a visitor. Who is it going to be?

a. King Duncan

b. Macduff

c. Banquo

55. Banquo is confused about the witches' sex. What confuses him?

a. They have strong arms

b. They have deep voices

c. They have beards

56. After Duncan's death, which two characters leave for England and Ireland respectively, for safety?

a. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

b. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

c. Macduff and Banquo

57. Of all the predictions the witches and apparitions make, which does not occur in the play?

- a. Great Birnam Wood to Dunsinane come against Macbeth
- b. Macbeth will become king

c. One of Banquo's offspring will become king

58. Which character eventually kills Macbeth?

- a. Malcolm
- b. Siward
- c. Macduff**

59. Whom did Macbeth slay so that he would become king of Scotland?

- a. Malcolm
- b. Duncan**
- c. MacAlpin
- d. Dumaine

60. In Act II Lady Macbeth says "It was the ---- that shrieked"

- a. ghoul
- b. ghost
- c. owl**
- d. ogre

61. What is the missing word in this Macbeth quote? "Vaulting ----, which o'erleaps itself And fails on the other"

- a. pride
- b. power
- c. aspiration
- d. ambition**

62. Macbeth says: "Bring me no more reports; let them fly all: Till ---- wood remove to Dunsinane". What is the name of the wood?

- a. Beech
- b. Birnam**
- c. Cawdor
- d. Caithness

63. "All the perfumes of ---- will not sweeten this little hand" says Lady Macbeth. What is the missing word?

- a. Albania
- b. The apothecary
- c. The Orient
- d. Arabia**

64. What animal's eye went in the witches' potion?

- a. newt**
- b. fenny snake
- c. frog
- d. numbat

65. When Lady Macbeth receives the letter telling her of the witches' words,

- a. she feels it unlikely they will come true.**
- b. she knows her husband will stop at nothing to make them come true.
- c. she fears her husband has too much humanity in him to make them come true.

66. She prays to the spirits of evil to

- a. cut off all feelings of remorse in her.**
- b. make Duncan come to the castle.
- c. make Macbeth listen to her advice.

67. She warns Macbeth that

- a. he is too tender-hearted and must be stronger.
- b. his face is giving away his evil thoughts - he must look like 'an innocent flower'.
- c. Duncan will not be easy to overpower.

68. In Act 1, Scene 7, Lady Macbeth enters after Macbeth mentions that

- a. he does not think it is worth risking what he has to kill Duncan.
- b. he lacks the necessary ambition to risk killing the king.
- c. he is lacking 'a spur' to make him act

69. On the night of the murder, Lady Macbeth

- a. has to drink to give herself courage.
- b. cannot kill Duncan as he reminds her of her father.
- c. fears that the guards have awakened and their plot will be found out.

70. Following the murder, Lady Macbeth's attitude to Macbeth's fears is:

- a. impatient and brisk - she gives him orders.
- b. calm and comforting - she helps him to regain his composure.
- c. she becomes infected by his anxieties - she is terrified by the sight of the blood.

71. When Lady Macbeth faints after Macbeth kills the bodyguards

- a. This is clearly a ruse to distract the others from questioning Macbeth's rash killings.
- b. She has collapsed through the strain of acting a part.
- c. Either a) or b) are possible interpretations of her action.

72. Before the banquet, Lady Macbeth's mood is

- a. depressed, but Macbeth manages to cheer her by promising all will be well.
- b. depressed, but she pretends to be calm and confident when she is with Macbeth.
- c. confident, but impatient that Macbeth will not share her feelings.

73. At the banquet, when Macbeth starts shouting at the ghost,

- a. she ignores him and continues talking to the guests.
- b. she privately speaks scornfully to him, saying he is looking at nothing but 'a stool'.
- c. she is struck dumb with fear at the appearance of Banquo's ghost.

74. At the end of the play, Lady Macbeth

- a. accompanies her husband to the battlefield where she later commits suicide when Macbeth loses.
- b. is left behind in the castle, where she is killed by Macduff.
- c. is left behind in her castle, where she has a breakdown and commits suicide.

75. Macbeth was believed to be written during what years?

- a. 1800s
- b. 1600s
- c. 1700s
- d. 1500s

76. The earliest account of this play was at which theater?

- a. Globe Theater
- b. England Theater
- c. Movie Theater
- d. None of the above

77. What was the name of Duncan's youngest son?

- a. Malcolm
- b. Donalbain
- c. Macdonwald
- d. Duncan Jr.

78. Where was Malcolm in hiding after his father's death?

- a. England
- b. England
- c. Scotland
- d. Wales.

79. The Weird Sisters greet Macbeth as

- a. Thane of Cawdor, Thane of Fife, and King hereafter
- b. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, and King hereafter
- c. Thane of Cawdor, Thane of Lochaber, and Thane of Glamis
- d. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Fife, and father of kings

80. Which apparition tells Macbeth to beware Macduff?

- a. First Apparition
- b. Second Apparition
- c. Third Apparition
- d. Fourth Apparition

81. Who kills Macbeth?

- a. Macduff
- b. Malcom
- c. Lady Macbeth
- d. A man of the whom untimely ripped

82. What was the third apparition that was shown to Macbeth?

- a. A young boy holding a tree and wearing a crown
- b. A young girl with a sphere
- c. A bloody baby
- d. A line of kings shown and Banquo at the end of the line holding a mirror.

83. what does macbeth see as he goes to kill duncan?

- a. an angel warning him not to kill the king **b. a bloody dagger**
c. the king's ghost d. the devil urging him onward

84. What was the name of Banquo's son? And who killed him?

- a. Fleance, no one** b. Fletchley, Macduff c. Fleance, Murderers d. Fletchley, Macbeth

85. Complete Duncan's Comment . There's no ... to find the mind's construction in the face".

- a. way b. method **c. art** d. skill

86. Who killed lady Macbeth?

- a. She does not die** b. Herself c. Macduff d. Malcolm

87. Macbeth's child was called?

- a. Lady Macbeth b. Macbeth Jr c. McDonalds **d. None of the above**

89. Where does King Duncan's son Donalbain flee after King Duncan was killed?

- a. England **b. Ireland** c. Scotland d. None of the above

90. What did Macbeth see during his Feast?

- a. The Ghost of Banquo** b. a mouse c. Lady Macbeth walking in d. a thief

91. In Macbeth, Act 1 Scene5, which bird does Lady Macbeth describes as hoarse in this scene?

- a. Parrot **b. Raven** c. Eagle d. Owl

92. In Macbeth, Act 1 Scene5, which bird does Lady Macbeth describes as hoarse in this scene?

- a. Parrot **b. Raven** c. Eagle d. Owl

93. Who did Macbeth unseam from the nave to chops?

- a. Macdonwald** b. Malcolm c. Macduff d. Ross

94. In Act 1 scene 2, what did the Captain describe Macbeth and Banquo?

- a. Sparrows Eagles, Hare of the Lion** b. Frogs , Hare of the Lion
c. Sparrow Raven, Hare of the frogs d. Sparrow Eagles, Sparrow Raven

95. What were the first three predictions about Macbeth that the witches said?

- a. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Scotland, King of Cawdor
b. Non born of women shall harm Macbeth, King of Scotland, Thane of Cawdor
c. Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, King of Scotland

d. Thane fo Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, King of England

96. Who was Macbeth's Father?

- a. Seyton b. Siward **c. Sinel** d. Lenox

97. Who killed Macbeth?

- a. Macduff** b. Duncan c. Ross d. Ross

98. What "sign" convinces Macbeth that he must go through with killing the king?

- a. One of the witches appears in his bedroom
b. He has a nightmare about the murder
c. He sees a floating dagger pointing towards Duncan's bedroom.
d. The ghost of his father visits him

99. Why didn't Lady Macbeth just kill the king herself?

- a. He looked too much like her father**
b. She wanted her husband to have all the satisfaction.
c. It would have contradicted her morals
d. She didn't have the bodily strength.

100. What does Macbeth accidentally take with him after murdering the king?

- a. The murder weapons** b. The king's crown c. A book d. The king's bloody pillow

101. Complete Macbeth's quotation: "I thought I heard a voice crying, 'Macbeth has murdered ____!'"

- a. truth b. Duncan c. honor **d. sleep**

102. Name the speaker: "My hands are the same color as yours -- but I'd be ashamed to have a heart as white as yours!"

- a. the old man **b. Lady Macbeth** c. Banquo d. Macbeth

103. Who else does Macbeth kill that same night?

- a. Fleance **b. The king's watchmen** c. Ross d. Lennox

104. Which of the following did NOT happen on the night Duncan was killed?

- a. Earthquakes shook the land **b. A servant woman killed herself**
c. Violent storms broke out d. Horses ate each other

105. Name the speaker: "If I had died an hour before this happened, I'd have lived a blessed life span. From now on, there's nothing left worth living for. Everything is a sham. Honor and dignity are dead."

- a. Lady Macbeth b. Macduff **c. Macbeth** d. the porter

106. Who vows to find the murderer and punish him/her?

- a. Macbeth **b. Banquo** c. Lady Macbeth d. Angus

107. Which characters run away shortly after Duncan's death?

- a. Banquo and Fleance b. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth
c. Malcolm and Donalbain d. Macduff and his family

108. There are many examples of fish imagery in the play.

- a. True **b. False**

109. The purpose of the scene with the porter is to relieve tension after a suspenseful and violent scene.

- a. True** b. False

110. "Regicide" is the murder of a _____.

- a. thane b. brother c. friend **d. king**

111. What title(s) does Macbeth hold at the beginning of the play?

- a. A general of the English forces and Earl of Northumberland
b. Thane of Fife
c. A general in King Duncan's army and Thane of Glamis
d. King Duncan's older son and heir to the throne
e. King Duncan's younger son and a general in King Duncan's army

112. In Act I, Scene II, what news does the wounded Captain bring to King Duncan and Scottish noblemen at a military camp near Forres?

- a. Macbeth killed Macdonwald, but the war continues.**
b. Macbeth killed Macdonwald and the war is over.
c. The Scottish are losing badly to the Danes.
d. The castle at Dunsinane has been taken by Norway.
e. Macduff killed the Thane of Cawdor

113. Who says the following line? "So foul and fair a day I have not seen."

- a. Macbeth** b. Banquo c. The First Witch d. Macduff e. King Duncan

114. To whom is Lady Macbeth reading Macbeth's letter in Act I, Scene V?

- a. Ross, who brought it b. Her maid who is brushing her hair c. Her maid who brought the letter in
d. Her infant son **e. No one; she is alone**

115. Lady Macbeth declares she would kill a baby she loved while it was nursing if she had sworn to do so, as Macbeth had sworn to kill Duncan. What later remark in Act II Scene II contradicts this?

- a. "But no baby have I borne, to my relief." b. "But they did say their prayers, and I addressed them Again to sleep."
c. "I had most need of blessing, and "Amen" Stuck in my throat."
d. "Had he not resembled My father as he slept, I had done't."
e. "Should I not be afeared of eternal flame, this i' quiet."

116. Whom does the porter not pretend to admit into hell in Act II, Scene III?

- a. A farmer b. An equivocator **c. A sailor** d. An English tailor

117. Malcolm and Donalbain flee after their father's murder. Where do they go?

- a. Both to Ireland b. Both to England c. Malcolm to Ireland, Donalbain to England
d. Malcolm to England, Donalbain to Ireland e. They do not flee

118. In Scene IV, the last of Act II, Ross and an unnamed Old Man are talking about the unnatural events that have happened recently: an owl killed a falcon last Tuesday, last night's darkness has lingered into day, and what else?

- a. Lady Macbeth grew a beard. b. An earthquake cracked Macbeth's castle at Inverness.
c. King Duncan's horses ate each other. d. Banquo's son committed suicide.
e. A nearby village burned down.

119. In Act II, Scene IV, Macduff reveals that he is returning to Fife, his home, instead of going to Scone to witness what event?

- a. Duncan's burial **b. Macbeth's coronation** c. Malcolm and Donalbain's trial
d. The old Thane of Cawdor's trial e. The Scottish Games

120. Whose musings about the witches' predictions and Macbeth's possible foul play begin Act III in the palace at Forres?

- a. Banquo** b. Macduff c. Ross d. Lennox e. Fleance

121. Lady Macbeth knows about Macbeth's plan to hire murderers to kill Banquo.

- a. True **b. False**

122. The murderers kill Banquo and Fleance.

- a. True **b. False**

123. How does Lady Macbeth explain Macbeth's reaction to Banquo's ghost at the dinner table?

- a. She faints and draws attention away from Macbeth.
b. She gives a toast to the Scottish noblemen in the hall.
c. She says he is just tired and needs sleep.

d. She says Macbeth has had a condition since his youth which is best ignored until it passes.

124. What is not included in the witches' cauldron in Act IV, Scene I?

- a. Eye of newt b. Toe of frog c. Scale of dragon d. Fur of dog

125. The Second Apparition tells Macbeth to: "Be bloody, bold, and ____!"

- a. Blue b. Resolute c. Strong d. Fierce

126. The Third Apparition tells Macbeth not to worry until which wood comes to Dunsinane Hill?

- a. Yyrne b. Stuart c. Tyrn d. Birnam

129. Lady Macduff tells her son that his father is dead and a traitor.

- a. True b. False

130. In Act IV, Scene III, what reason does Malcolm not give for being a worse king than Macbeth if crowned?

- a. Unrestrained lust b. Greed for his nobles' belongings c. Love of torture d. Lack of patience

131. Why does Malcolm order each soldier to cut a branch from the forest and carry it to Dunsinane?

- a. To hide the army's size b. To fulfill the prophecy c. To serve as shields

132. Who speaks the last lines in the play?

- a. Malcolm b. Macduff c. Macbeth

133. What does Macbeth confess he did, out of rage?

- a. Killed Duncan's guards b. Tore out his hair c. Vowed revenge d. Killed Duncan

134. What does Banquo feel he owes to Macbeth, even though he doesn't trust him?

- a. Loyalty b. Patience c. Protection d. Benefit of the doubt

135. What gruesome battle trophy proves Malcolm is now king?

- a. Macbeth's thumb b. The bodies of Macbeth and all the witches
c. Macbeth's eye-teeth d. Macbeth's severed head

136. Who does Duncan name to succeed him as king?

- a. Donalbain b. Thane of Glamis c. Macbeth d. Malcolm

137. Lady Macbeth vows to do what?

- a. See her husband king and herself queen b. To kill Duncan herself if she has to
c. To make sure she gets pregnant immediately d. To make the witches tell her fortune

138. Whom does Duncan name to succeed him as king?

- a. Macduff b. Macbeth c. Malcolm d. Banquo

139. What does Macbeth fear if he carries out the murder of Duncan?

- a. The anger of the people b. Retribution from Duncan's sons
c. Ghosts d. Eternal damnation

140. What does Lady Macbeth's guilty conscience cause her to do?

- a. Plead for mercy b. Sleepwalk c. Confess d. Pray for forgiveness

141. Who kills Duncan?

- a. Lady Macbeth **b. Macbeth** c. Malcolm d. Banquo

142. Where is Macbeth in the opening of this scene?

- a. At the Tower of London b. In his royal chambers at Inverness
c. At Dunsinane castle d. Alone on the moors, awaiting the witches

143. Which of the following is NOT one of the titles the witches call Macbeth by?

- a. The thane of Glamis b. **The thane of Norway** c. The future king d. The thane of Cowdor

144. Why does Macduff say Malcolm and Donalbain are suspects?

- a. They have the most to gain b. They had been overheard disparaging Duncan
c. They fled Inverness, making them seem guilty d. They were seen wearing bloody garments

145. What vow does Lady Macbeth make?

- a. To divorce Macbeth b. To get pregnant right away
c. To see Duncan dead **d. To see Macbeth king and herself, queen**

146. True or False: Malcolm has doubts about Macduff's motives

- a. True** b. False

147. True or False: Macbeth tells his wife not to worry

- a. False **b. True**

148. What unwelcome news does Macbeth receive?

- a. Troops are amassing on the border b. Banquo survived
c. Fleance survived d. A ghost is haunting Inverness

149. The Witches call Macbeth all of the following except?

- a. Thane of Cowdor b. Thane of Gladis **c. Thane of Norway** d. King hereafter

150. What does the Porter tease Macduff about?

- a. His inability to ride a horse b. His bad table manners
c. His sucking up to Duncan d. His drinking and failures with women

151. True or False: It has already been decided that Macduff will be crowned king

- a. True b. False

152. True or False: Macbeth is persuaded by his wife to carry through with their plan

- a. True b. False

153. Who is killed in the attack?

- a. Only Fleance **b. Only Banquo**
c. Banquo and one of the murderers, who is killed by Fleance d. Both Banquo and Fleance

154. Why is Macbeth so happy that Banquo is dead?

- a. Because he hated him
b. Because he now will extend his landholding
c. Because he cannot produce any more sons

155. Which of the following is NOT revealed in the letter Lady Macbeth receives?

- a. The witches' prophecy
- b. That Macbeth has been appointed Thane of Cawdor
- c. The location of Donalbain and Malcolm
- d. That Macbeth has ambitions to become king

156. What noise startles Lady Macbeth?

- a. A screeching owl
- b. A knock at the door
- c. A shrill whistle
- d. Her own heartbeat

157. What do the witches predict about Banquo?

- a. His life is almost over
- b. He will not be king, but his sons will
- c. A friend will take his life
- d. He will rule only for a short time before being betrayed

158. Macbeth asks Banquo to join him that evening for:

- a. A meeting to discuss how to find Malcolm
- b. A memorial service for Duncan
- c. A military strategy session
- d. A banquet

159. When Macbeth leaves Fleance and Banquo, what object appears before him?

- a. A bejeweled scepter
- b. A golden goblet
- c. A bloody crown
- d. A bloody dagger

160. What decision does Duncan regret?

- a. Getting married
- b. Taking up arms in the first place
- c. Ordering the execution of the Thane of Cawdor
- d. Appointing Macbeth to his new position

161. Banquo is told by the witches that he will be _____ and _____ than Macbeth

- a. fatter and thinner
- b. greater and lesser
- c. richer and poorer
- d. sadder and happier

162. True or False: Macbeth is present to greet Duncan along with Lady Macbeth

- a. False
- b. True

163. Lady Macbeth tells her husband, "What's done _____."

- a. cannot be undone
- b. has been predestined
- c. is nothing to regret
- d. can be overcome

164. True or False: Macbeth's newly-conquered subjects are loyal

- a. True
- b. False

165. True or False: Banquo and Fleance never see or hear their murderers

- a. True
- b. False

166. What military success has Macbeth had?

- a. Defeating Malcolm
- b. Taking high profile prisoners of war
- c. Clearing Birnam Wood of Macduff's loyalists
- d. Securing Dunsinane

167. What does Macbeth ask of the doctor?

- a. To find a cure for his wife
- b. To go with him into battle
- c. To give him some bandages
- d. To concoct a pain serum

168. What do the witches tell Banquo?

- a. He will see things but hear nothing
- b. He will die by the hand of a friend
- c. His descendants will be kings
- d. His path is short but the road long

169. Who comes to Macbeth with concerns about Lady Macbeth?

- a. The goodwife **b. The doctor** c. Ross d. The nurse

170. What derogatory name does Lady Macbeth call her husband?

- a. A traitor **b. A coward** c. A snake d. A bastard

171. What does Lady Macbeth say she had considered doing herself?

- a. Stopping Macbeth b. Running away
c. Killing Duncan d. Warning Duncan

172. What does one of the murderers repeatedly call for?

- a. Silence b. Steady nerves c. A drink **d. A light**

173. Whose army has Macbeth defeated?

- a. Scotland b. Geatland c. Ireland d. **Norway**

174. True or False: Macbeth feels confident that he will defeat Malcolm

- a. False b. **True**

175. Whom does Lady Macbeth frame for the murder of Duncan?

- a. Macduff b. Malcolm c. **Duncan's chamberlains** d. Fleance

176. How does Macbeth respond to Banquo's concerns about the witches?

- a. Tells him not to worry and claims they are harmless b. Agrees they are probably up to no good
c. Says that they have always been honest with him d. **Says he does not think of them at all**

177. What are the witches doing as the scene opens?

- a. Flying in on broomsticks to meet in the dead of night b. Summoning the ghost of Banquo to them
c. **Preparing a charm and chanting** d. Luring Macbeth to their cauldron

178. Why won't the gentlewoman say what he has overheard from Lady Macbeth?

- a. It was gibberish b. **She is afraid of being charged with treason**
c. The words were vile and unrepeatable d. She has been sworn to secrecy

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180. Who is reflected in the mirror of the last king who appears in the witches procession?

- a. Duncan b. Fleance c. A dead and bloody Lady Macbeth d. **Banquo**

181. Why is Hecate upset?

- a. **Because the other witches did not consult her before talking to Macbeth**
b. Because Banquo is dead
c. Because Fleance is alive
d. Because Macbeth is king

182. What vow is made by the new subjects?

- a. To see Macbeth burn in Hell b. To follow Macbeth, whatever the cost
c. **To overthrow Macbeth and regain Scotland** d. To never forget Macduff's slain family

183. Upon whom does Macbeth pin responsibility for Duncan's murder?

- a. Banquo b. Malcolm c. Donalbain d. **Duncan's attendants**

184. Why does Macbeth hire men to kill Banquo and Fleance?

- a. So the witches' prophecy cannot be fulfilled
- b. Because they know he murdered Duncan
- c. Because they threaten to start an uprising among the people
- d. Because they are plotting to kill him

185. The witches do NOT address Macbeth by this title:

- a. King
- b. Your Highness
- c. Thane of Cawdor
- d. Thane of Glamis

186. The second apparition tells Macbeth he cannot be harmed _____.

- a. By anyone for any reason
- b. By woman born
- c. Any piece of honed steel
- d. Until he has ruled for four score years

187. Why does Macduff say the prophecy protecting him from "woman born" does not apply?

- a. The witches are liars
- b. He is half-god
- c. The witches have no power
- d. He was born by Cesarean section

188. Who tries to console Lady Macduff?

- a. Lady Macbeth
- b. Fleance
- c. Ross
- d. Macduff

189. What is Lady Macbeth afraid of at the banquet?

- a. That he will confess to Duncan's murder
- b. That her husband has gone mad
- c. That the ghost will kill them all
- d. That their subjects will turn against them

190. Which of the following is NOT among the warnings or information that Macbeth hears?

- a. That no child of woman born will harm him
- b. To beware of Macduff
- c. To hide Lady Macbeth
- d. That he will not be defeated until Birnam Wood moves against him

191. True or False: At this point, Lady Macbeth is pleased with the murder

- a. False
- b. True

192. What has been done with Duncan's body?

- a. He was given a burial-at-sea
- b. A funeral pyre was constructed at Inverness and he was cremated
- c. Nothing. It lays where he was slain.
- d. His body was taken to the family graveyard

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194. Where do the murderers make their attack?

- a. As father and son slumber in the forest
- b. In the stables of Inverness
- c. As Banquo and Fleance travel on a known route
- d. At the riverbank

195. How does Lady Macbeth explain Macbeth's strange behavior at the banquet?

- a. He has become obsessed with his new power.
- b. He has eaten the insane root.
- c. He is intoxicated.
- d. He is suffering from an illness.

196. How does Macbeth persuade the murderers to kill Banquo?

- a. He says he will pay them.
- b. He taunts them for their lack of manliness.
- c. He threatens to execute them.
- d. He threatens to imprison them.

197. How does Macduff receive the news of his family's murder?

- a. He blames himself and vows to take revenge upon Macbeth.
- b. He commits suicide.
- c. He gets hives.
- d. He seeks out Lady Macbeth for consolation.

198. How does Malcolm attempt to win Macduff's support?

- a. He claims he will be a better king than Macbeth.
- b. He gives Macduff a feast to feed his family.
- c. He reveals that he has lied about his lack of kingly virtues.
- d. He tells Macduff about the slaughter of his family

199. On returning to the Witches, what is the last apparition that Macbeth sees?

- a. A blood-covered child
- b. A ghost from his past
- c. A procession of kings
- d. A procession of trees

200. What do the weird sisters promise to Macbeth?

- a. A large family
- b. Everlasting life
- c. The kingdom of Scotland
- d. Victory in battle

201. What does Lady Macbeth accuse her husband of being?

- a. A bad father
- b. A bad king
- c. A coward
- d. A weak soldier

202. What reason does Macbeth give for not killing Duncan?

- a. Duncan is his guest.
- b. Duncan is his uncle.
- c. Duncan is stronger than he is.
- d. Duncan will not die young.

203. Who says the following: "Here lay Duncan, his silver skin lac'd with his golden blood."

- a. Lady Macbeth
- b. Macbeth
- c. Macduff
- d. Malcolm

204. Who says the following: "Glamis hath murdered sleep . . . Macbeth will sleep no more."

- a. Fleance
- b. Lady Macbeth
- c. Macbeth
- d. Malcolm

205. Who says the following: "All hail Macbeth, Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis."

- a. Cawdor
- b. Hecate
- c. Lady Macbeth
- d. The Witches

206. Who says the following: "'Tis unnatural, even like the deed that's done."

- a. Banquo
- b. Donalbain
- c. Ross
- d. The Old Man

207. Who says the following: "Come you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here."

- a. Fleance
- b. Hecate
- c. Lady Macbeth
- d. Lennox

208. Why do Malcolm and Donalbain flee?

- a. They are afraid they'll be accused of murdering their father.
- b. They fear the weird sisters.
- c. They think that Macbeth will kill them next.
- d. They want to join the English army.

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210. Why does Macbeth envy Malcolm?

- a. He has been named heir to the throne.
- b. He is a better soldier.
- c. He is marrying Hecate.
- d. He is the son of Duncan.

211. Who said, "If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me"?

- a. Duncan
- b. Macbeth
- c. Banquo
- d. Prince William

212. Who said, "If't be so, For Banquo's issue have I fil'd my mind, For them the gracious Duncan have I murther'd"?

- a. Macbeth
- b. Lady Macbeth
- c. Malcolm
- d. Macduff

213. Who said, "Sons, kinsmen, thanes, And you whose places are the nearest, know We will establish our estate upon Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must Not unaccompanied invest him only"?

- a. Duncan
- b. Macbeth
- c. Macduff
- d. Banquo

214. Who said, "Are you a man?"?

- a. Macbeth
- b. Macbeth's doctor
- c. Lady Macbeth
- d. Malcolm

215. Who said, "Yet here's a spot."?

- a. Duncan
- b. Macbeth
- c. The carpet cleaners
- d. Lady Macbeth

216. This play is often read as a cautionary tale against too much

- a. Wife
- b. Ambition
- c. Greed
- d. Temptation

217. The term for killing a king is

- a. Cyanide
- b. Regicide
- c. Homicide
- d. Suicide

218. The play opens with

- a. Battle
- b. Witches
- c. Dogs
- d. Banquet

219. Macbeth is obsessed with the concept of

- a. Travel
- b. Space
- c. Marriage
- d. Time

220. What is the witches' mantra?

- a. Fair is foul and foul is fair
- b. Brew is the stew
- c. Macbeth rules
- d. All is fair in love and war

221. About what kind of robes does Macbeth complain?

- a. Old
- b. New
- c. Borrowed
- d. Blue

222. What is a metaphor for the title Thane of Cawdor?

- a. Children
- b. Rulers
- c. Gold
- d. Robes

223. The witches throw the finger of whom into the cauldron?

- a. Macbeth
- b. Lady Macbeth
- c. Malcolm
- d. Babe

224. At the end, what part of Macbeth is bleeding?

- a. Foot
- b. Hand
- c. Arm
- d. Head

225. Whom does the drunken porter think is at the gate?

- a. An equivocator
- b. A king
- c. An educator
- d. An equilateral

226. What nationality is Macbeth?

- a. French
- b. scottish
- c. Hispanic
- d. Israeli

227. Which attribute does Lady Macbeth lack?

- a. Cham
- b. intelligence
- c. Ambition
- d. Compassion

228. Fair is foul and foul is

- a. Funny
- b. Freaky
- c. Fair
- d. Far, far away

229. Which magical ingredient is not mentioned?

- a. Eye of newt
- b. Toe of frog
- c. Wool of bat
- d. Hair of unicorn

230. Lady Macbeth calls on spirits to

- a. Sex her up **b. Unsex her** c. Boogie down d. Fix her hair

231. What attribute describes the three sisters?

- a. Bearded** b. Blonde c. Beautiful d. Braless

232. What adjective describes the three sisters?

- a. Wacky **b. Weird** c. Wild d. Wooly

233. What will Banquo's sons be?

- a. Kings** b. Pirates c. Queens d. Truck drivers

234. The play opens with the appearance of three...?

- a. Wild dogs b. Cats **c. Witches** d. Blind mice

235. What prophecy has been made about Macbeth?

- a. He will be the Boy Who Lives. **b. He will one day be King of Scotland.**
c. He will die young. d. He will prick his finger on a spinning wheel and fall into a deep sleep

236. Whom does King Duncan name as heir to his throne?

- a. His son Malcolm** b. Banquo c. Macbeth d. His beloved cockerspaniel

237. How does Lady Macbeth signal to Macbeth that King Duncan's chamberlains are asleep?

- a. By whistling three times **b. By tolling a bell** c. By winking d. By texting him

238. What does Macbeth do to King Duncan?

- a. He frames him for the murder of the chamberlains b. He steals his watch
c. **He murders him** d. He plays a practical joke on him

239. To whom does "something wicked this way comes" refer?

- a. Macbeth** b. A witch c. Macduff d. A naughty child

240. Macbeth is angered by whose escape?

- a. Rapunzel's b. Prince Malcolm's c. Banquo's **d. Fleance's**

241. Whose ghost does Macbeth find seated at the royal table?

- a. Duncan's b. King Hamlet's **c. Banquo's** d. Nearly Headless Nick's

242. What does Lady Macbeth claim to have on her hands while sleepwalking?

- a. Dirt b. Rings c. Gloves **d. Blood**

243. Why was Macduff not "of woman born"?

- a. Because he hatched from an egg b. Because Macduff does not consider his mother a woman
c. Because he delivered via C-section) d. Because he is an alien from outer space

245. Which character is a foil to Macbeth?

- a. Macduff b. Malcolm c. **Banquo** d. King Duncan

246. According to Goethe, Who is "SUPER WITCH"?

- a. Witch 1 b. Witch 2 c. Lady Macduff d. **Lady Macbeth**

247. Whose nature is "too full of the milk of human kindness"?

- a. Macbeth** b. Banquo c. Macduff d. King Duncan

248. What is Macbeth's tragic flaw?

- a. Pride b. Rash Judgement c. **Vaulting Ambition** d. Too much milk of Human Kindness

249. As witches foretold, whose dynasty will rule Scotland?

- a. Banquo** b. Malcolm c. Macduff d. Macbeth

250. "A little water clears us of this deed" who said that?

- a. Macbeth b. **Lady Macbeth** c. Macduff d. Banquo