

## SHOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHARACTER OF MACBETH IN ACT 1

Act 1 - Scene 1 - line 8 from the third witch: 'There to meet with Macbeth'. This establishes mystery, suspense and that something sinister is meddling with Macbeth.

Act 1 - Scene 2 - line 16 - sergeant's account of battle: 'For brave Macbeth - well he deserves that name -/ Disdaining fortune' An account of Macbeth's bravery, violent nature, fearless for a good cause (for king and country). Not caring for himself or the consequences. (Shows bravery in this example - later to be used for evil).

Line 39: 'doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe' Showing Macbeth (and Banquo) fighting extra hard, extra valiantly. (Later parallel Macduff etc.) Magnificent view of Macbeth's character: brave, loyal, fearless, super power, fighting for good, saviour

Act 1 - Scene 2 - line 67: Duncan's order to create Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor. A contrast between the traitor, Cawdor and Macbeth has been set up. Duncan creates Macbeth as a reward. Dramatic because we see later

1) Cawdor is part of the prophecy.

2) As Cawdor (1) was a traitor so Cawdor (2) will be.

Act 1 - Scene 3: Opening establishes the witches as evil - they act indiscriminately and capriciously.

Line 31: 'Macbeth doth come'--the winding up of the spell.

Act 1 - Scene 3. 38 - Macbeth: 'So foul and fair a day I have not seen' first utterance echoes the witches.

Contrast Banquo/Macbeth's reactions to witches.

Banquo doesn't know who what they are Macbeth: 'Speak' (line 48), 'Stay' (line 70) wants to know more ready to believe, 'Strange Intelligence' (line 76)

Act 1 - Scene 3.86: First point from the prophecy that Macbeth says 'Your children shall be Kings' Thinking ahead. Assimilated about himself. Ambition going on.

Line 109: Seems genuine shock when he's given the Thaneship, but by 117 has thought ahead. He believes the prophecy. Teases Banquo about children to be Kings. He believes the prophecy and this is the second reference to this point.

121: Banquo's speech of warning. Sound advice. by 128 Macbeth has ignored to prophecy ill?

128: Macbeth's vision of his future: 'Two truths are told, / As happy prologues to the swelling act of the imperial theme'. Kept private. Public action, private thought.

130: Soliloquy - opposite of 121. Banquo's advice prophecy good.

142: Macbeth resigned - he will do nothing. 'if chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me, without my stir'

139: "My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical. / Shakes to my single state of man that function is smothered in summise." We are suspicious because he has uttered the word 'murder'. The uncertainty of the future shows his ability to act determinedly (like a man). At this stage he has a glimpse of the possibilities of the third prophecy but he checks himself. He controls himself.

147: repetition that the future will unfold. 'Come what come may, / Time and the hour runs through the roughest day'

153: Tells Banquo they should speak privately about what has happened Banquo is glad to. We have seen Macbeth's thoughts working. By the end of scene 3 he believes the prophecy "chance and the future will unfold" - he'll do nothing to aid the prophecy. Banquo - intends to speak to him

Act 1 - Scene 4: Reunited - Duncan and Macbeth. The sovereign's trust and honour of Macbeth established.

14-15:Duncan of Cawdor (i) 'He was a gentleman on whom I built / An absolute trust' at which time Macbeth enters. Device to doubt Macbeth.

22: Macbeth's speech of loyalty. Has the ring of insincerity now.

49: Macbeth's reception of the news of Malcolm's succession. Out pouring after controlled public behaviour. "that is a step / On which I must fall down, or else o'er - leap, / For in my way it lies' He seems to be harbouring thoughts of ambition which are evil. He's frightened of his own thoughts. He controls himself again - he doesn't want others or himself to acknowledge these thoughts.

Act 1 - Scene 5: Letter to L.M. Macbeth calls to her

10:'My dearest partner of greatness'

15: 'Yet I do fear thy nature; / It is too full o' the milk of human kindness/ To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldn't be great,/ Art not without ambition, but without/ The illness should attend it." This confirms Macbeth's character so far. He is not prepared to do anything, especially wrong, to further his ambition. She will fulfil her part - 10 - making him great by her efforts.

26: 'And chastise with the valour of my tongue/ All that impedes thee from the golden round' She can talk him into doing what's necessary - by 'chastising' - (nagging, taunting, telling off etc!)

39: Macbeth's wife calls on evil to help her 'Come, you spirits, That tend.....' invocation to evil. Opening the channel to evil. This is a parallel to the witches evil.

54: Macbeth enters and she greets him as the prophecy says.

59: Lady Macbeth gives the first thought to the death of Duncan. At this stage Macbeth does not utter anything to suggest the murder of Duncan. Lady Macbeth warns him to behave properly in public. The thought of murder seems to be understood between them without being spoken. Lady Macbeth says she will sort everything out.

66: 'and you shall put / This night's great business into my dispatch; / Which shall to all our nights and days to come / Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom'. Macbeth's only reaction is to say they speak further later.

Act 1 - Scene 7:

Opens with Macbeth's soliloquy. He is thinking aloud. Cowardice does not restrain Macbeth but conscience.

31: 'We will proceed no further in this business' represents a triumph of conscience. He has talked himself away from killing Duncan. He has recognised what a great sin it would be. He can appreciate Duncan's good qualities and recognise his own duty and the moral way. Lady Macbeth - taunts his manhood (coward). He yields to her, and in order to prove himself a man in her eyes, submits to a woman's guidance.

End of Act 1 Macbeth 79: 'I am settled and bend up./ Each corporal agent to this terrible feat. / False face must hide what the false heart doth know'. He has been goaded and convinced by Lady Macbeth.

(Note Act 1 Scene 3.26 ) Lady M has succeeded.

### Scene Guidelines

#### Act II. ii. -Opening of Scene

- how Lady Macbeth provides a narrative of what she has just done in Duncan's chamber
- what frightens Lady Macbeth
- how does Duncan look to her
- the noises that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth talk about
- what happened when Macbeth killed Duncan
- how would you convey Macbeth's discussion of sleep and prayer
- the voice that Macbeth thinks he hears
- what error does Macbeth make when performing the murder and how does Lady Macbeth respond to this error

#### Act II.ii.-End of Scene

- why does Macbeth refuse to go back to the chamber
- why Lady Macbeth is angry at Macbeth and why she goes to the chamber
- how does the knocking affect Macbeth
- how does Macbeth respond when he sees the blood on his hands
- how does Lady Macbeth respond to the blood on her hands
- do they think they are going to get away with it.
- how does Macbeth feel about himself after the murder

#### Act II.iii-Porter and Macduff

- what state of mind the Porter is in
- why does the Porter imagine himself at the gates of Hell
- how does the Porter respond to the knocking
- what does Macduff think of the Porter
- how do they view drinking (who else is drunk)

#### Act II.iii-Discovery of the Murder

- how do the characters talk about service to the king
- how does Macbeth cover-up his guilt
- what are Lennox's impression of the night, what do they prophesize
- how do the individual characters initially respond to the discovery of the murder

#### Act II.iii--Responses to the Murder

- how does Lady Macbeth respond to the Alarm bell and to the news of the murder
- how does Macduff treat Lady Macbeth
- how does Macbeth's discussion of the king's death have a double meaning
- how do the king's sons, Donaldbain and Malcolm respond to their father's death
- how does Lennox describe the murder
- how does Macbeth describe the murder scene
- why does Lady Macbeth faint

#### Act II.iii.--Princes responses to the Crime

- what are Banquo's thoughts on treason
- what is the pledge that the characters make
- what do Malcolm and Donaldbain decide to do
- where are the princes going and why?

#### Act II.iv.--Reports of the crime

- what does the Old Man say about all the commotion at the castle
  - according to Rosse, how do Duncan horses react to all of the activities
  - why has Macbeth killed the guards
  - what happens because Duncan's sons have left the country
  - why might Macduff not go to Macbeth's coronation
  - how might the Old Man's comment at the end serve as foreshadowing
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Macbeth-ACT 3 and ACT 4, Scene 1 Study Questions

After we read Act 3 and the beginning of Act 4, you will be responsible for answering the following questions to turn in at the end of the week.

A=Arden F=Folger's edition of Shakespeare

Act 3, scene 1: After meeting with Banquo, Macbeth discusses why he sees Banquo as a threat because of the witches prophecy, plots Banquo's murder, saying he is an enemy to the throne, and discusses how the Princes are denying their guilt

1. What does Banquo think of Macbeth's rise to the throne? How does he feel about the witches' prophecies for Macbeth and for himself? (opening lines 1-10)
2. After Banquo departs, Macbeth's soliloquy reveals why he thinks that Banquo is a threat because Banquo's children are heir to the throne. What are the images that Macbeth uses to discuss this belief? [A=48-72, F=52-76]
3. When asking the murderers to kill Banquo, Macbeth gives weighty reasons for why he doesn't execute Banquo even though he has the power as king to do so. What are these reasons [A=118-26, F=130-38]

Act 3, scene 2: Macbeth discusses with Lady Macbeth his fears that their reign will not last as long as Banquo is alive before the banquet at their house. However, he does not tell her of the plot to kill Banquo.

4. Look at Macbeth's final lines in the scene. How does Macbeth give clues to Lady Macbeth about his plans? [A=48-end, F=50-end]

Act 3, scene 3: Macbeth's murderers joined by a third man, ambush Banquo and Fleance. Banquo is killed but Fleance escapes.

5. Why is it important that Fleance escapes?

Act 3, scene 4: The Banquet. Surrounded by his men, Macbeth gives a toast when the ghost of Banquo shows up and sits in the empty chair at the table, and Macbeth begins to act crazy. Lady Macbeth tries to cover up his craziness but eventually has to dismiss the guests. After they leave, Macbeth questions why Macduff did not attend the banquet and thinks they should consult the witches to get clues to the future.

6. How does Macbeth respond to the news that Fleance escaped? [A=21-25, F=26-31]
7. When Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost, he says "Thou'st canst not say I did it: never shake thy gory locks at me." What does the Ghost of Banquo look like? [A=50-1, F=64-5]
8. How does Lady Macbeth explain his irrational behavior? [A= 53-57, F=67-72]
9. What does Lady Macbeth say to Macbeth? What does she refer to? [A=60-8, F=75-83]
10. How do you think the guests have been affected by Macbeth's "fit" and why does Lady Macbeth keep them from asking questions?

11. What does Macbeth hope to gain by visiting the witches? [A=132-40, F=164-172]

Act 3, scene 5: Hecate criticizes the witches for daring "to trade and traffic with Macbeth in riddles and affairs of death." This scene is not believed to be in the original but added by Thomas Middleton.

Act 3, scene 6: The lords discuss that the guilt of the death of Duncan and Banquo cannot be the sons but is rather Macbeth's doing. Lennox reports that Macduff is in England raising an army to put Malcolm on the throne.

12. As Lennox discusses the deaths of Duncan and Banquo, how does he seem to no longer believe the accusations against their sons? (opening speech)
13. How does he indicate that Macbeth is guilty of the murders? (opening speech)
14. What does Lennox see as the future of Scotland under Malcolm as king (final speech)

Act 4, scene 1

15. The witches show Macbeth three apparitions. What are they and what do they mean?
16. How does Macbeth respond to the three apparitions? (look after each apparition appears)
17. How does Macbeth respond to the vision of eight kings, in particular, Banquo? [A=112-124, F=126-38]
18. How does Macbeth plan to deal with Macduff's family (final speech)

#### Act 4 and Act 5 Study Questions

Your answers will be collected at the end of the week at the beginning of class.

Act 4. Scene 2. Lady Macduff and Rosse discuss Macduff's leaving of his family, how he is perceived as a traitor. Lady Macduff tells her son that his father is a traitor. Servant warns Lady Macduff that her family will be murdered. She doesn't believe it, but then murderers arrive to perform the deed.

1. There are three discussions of Macduff as a traitor.

a) What is Lady Macduff's view, "our fears do make us traitors"?

b) What is Ross' view, "but cruel are the times, when we are traitors, and do not know ourselves"?

c) What is Lady Macduff's son's view, "then the liars and swearers are fools; for there are liars and swearers enow to beat the honest men, and hang up them"?

2. What is the purpose of the conversation between Lady Macduff and her son?

3. Why doesn't Lady Macduff leave the castle, despite the warning?

Act 4. Scene 3. In England. Although sceptical at first, Malcolm tells Macduff he will fight for the Scottish throne. Macduff hears about his family's murder and vows to avenge their deaths.

4. What images does Malcolm use to describe Macbeth at the beginning of the scene?

5. a) Why does Malcolm say, "the poor State esteem him as a lamb, being compar'd with my confineless harms"?

b) What plans does Malcolm have if he is king? How might this open things up for Fleance?

6. What qualities does Malcolm believe make a good king?

7. Why do you think Ross lies to Macduff about his family? Why do you think Ross then tells him the truth?

9. What kind of person is Macduff? Use scene 2 and 3 to support your view.

Act Five, Scene 1. Lady Macbeth sleepwalks. She is also being to become mad.

10. What is Lady Macbeth imagining while she sleepwalks?

11. How does Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking resemble Macbeth at the Banquet scene?

Act 5-Scene 2-8. The Battle on Both sides—Macbeth versus Macduff and his forces  
New major characters: Menteith, Caithness and Angus—noblemen loyal to Malcolm; Seyton—officer attending Macbeth; Siward—general of English forces, Young Siward—Siward's son.

Scene 2—Lennox, Menteth, Cathness, Angus—against Macbeth

12. Where are the forces planning to meet?

13. What is the report of Macbeth's mental state?

Scene 3—Macbeth's castle. Macbeth viewing the forces against him with Seyton.

14. Why does Macbeth refer to the witches prophecy when he hears the news of the forces outside his castle?

15. How does he respond to the doctor's reports of Lady Macbeth's illness?

Scene 4—the forces of Siward and Macduff meet in Birnam wood

16. How does the third apparition come true?

Scene 5—Lady Macbeth kills herself. Third apparition is coming true.

17. How does Macbeth respond to Lady Macbeth's death—"tomorrow and tomorrow . . ."

18. How does Macbeth respond to the prophecy coming true?

Scene 6—Macduff's forces advance to the castle

Scene 7—Macbeth and young Siward battle. Macbeth escapes from Macduff.

Scene 8—Macbeth and Macduff battle. Macbeth is killed.

19. What does Macbeth contemplate at the beginning of the scene?

20. During the battle, how does Macbeth respond to all the apparitions coming true?

Scene 9—sometimes included in Scene 8. Macduff brings in Macbeth's head. Malcolm mocks his reign and mocks Lady Macbeth's suicide. Malcolm is to take the throne.