

YOUR 4-Step CHECK-UP ON *MACBETH*

Step 1 PLOT AND CHARACTERS

Where are you in your *Macbeth* studies? Start by answering these quiz-style questions to check your knowledge of the plot and characters.

1. The play opens with a **group of three** on a 'heath'. **Who** are they?
2. **Who** is **King of Scotland** at this point in the play?
3. We first meet **Macbeth** and **Banquo** in person in Act 1 Scene 3. **What brutal event** have they been involved in?
4. **What different things** do the **witches** promise **Macbeth** and **Banquo** when they meet them?
5. **What** is **Lady Macbeth** doing when we first meet her in **Act 1 Scene 5**?
6. **What ghostly vision** does **Macbeth** see on his way to murder **the king** in **Act 2 Scene 1**?
7. **How** does **Lady Macbeth** try to make it look like the **king's grooms** have murdered him?
8. **Who** discovers the King murdered in the morning?
9. **What** do the **king's sons**, **Malcolm** and **Donaldbain**, decide to do?
10. In **what way** do **the murderers** hired by Macbeth to kill Banquo and his son **fail** in their task?
11. **How** does the **banquet** in **Act 3 Scene 4**, which is supposed to be a high point for Macbeth, turn into a **disaster**?
12. **What three prophecies** do the **witches** reveal to **Macbeth** in **Act 4 Scene 1**?
13. In the same scene, **what apparition** shown to **Macbeth** horrifies him?
14. **What** happens to **Lady Macduff and her children** in the scene which follows?
15. **Who** does **Macduff** go to see in **England**? **Why** is Macduff initially disappointed at this meeting?
16. **What** is **Lady Macbeth** doing when the **doctor** and '**gentlewoman**' observe her sleepwalking?
17. **How** does the **prophecy** about **Birnam Wood** moving to **Dunsinane** come true?
18. **Who** becomes **king** at the end of the play?
19. **What** is the name of the **young soldier** Macbeth kills?
20. When **Macduff** kills **Macbeth**, **what other two prophecies** are proved correct?

Step 2 LANGUAGE AND THEMES

How much do you know about the language and themes of the play?

1. Here are **five quotations** from the play. Can you identify **who** is speaking (and, where relevant, who they are speaking to)?
 - a) *'Come, you spirits/That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here'* (Act 1 Scene 5)
 - b) *'O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!'* (Act 3 Scene 2)
 - c) *'Avaunt, and quit my sight, let the earth hide thee—/Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold...'* (Act 3 Scene 4)
 - d) *'Be bloody, bold and resolute; laugh to scorn/The power of man; for none of woman born/Shall harm Macbeth'* (Act 4 Scene 1)
 - e) *'Here's the smell of the blood still—all the/perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O,/O, O.'* (Act 5 Scene 1)
2. Read these **further quotations**. What **theme(s)** do you think they are linked to, or explore, e.g. Good and evil? Ambition? Why?
 - a) **Banquo (to Macbeth):** *'oftentimes, to win us to our harm,/The instruments of darkness tell us truths...'* (Act 1 Scene 3)
 - b) **Macbeth (to Lady Macbeth):** *'False face must hide what the false heart doth know'* (Act 1 Scene 7)
 - c) **Macbeth (after the murder to Lady Macbeth):** *'I'll go no more:/I am afraid to think what I have done.'* (Act 2 Scene 2)
 - d) **Macbeth (to himself):** *'Stars, hide your fires,/Let not light see my black and deep desires'* (Act 1 Scene 4)
 - e) **Malcolm (about the Macbeths):** *'this dead butcher, and his fiend-like Queen'* (Act 5 Scene 7)

Step 3 WRITING SKILLS

A student has drafted this paragraph about the character of Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth finally disintegrates in Act 5 Scene 1 haunted by the bloody murders of and Lady Macduff. She sleepwalks and desperately wonders will these hands ne'r be clean? This is ironic given that she was the one in Act 2 Scene 2 who was angry with Macbeth when

1. Copy out the paragraph and add in the **missing detail** in the **first sentence**
2. Put **quotation marks** around the quotation the student uses
3. **Finish** the paragraph, completing the **last sentence**

Step 4 CLOSE ANALYSIS

This scene comes from Act 2 Scene 2 of the play. Macbeth has just returned from killing the king and refuses to take the daggers he used back to the room.

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose;
Give me the daggers; the sleeping, and the dead,
Are but as pictures; 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;
For it must seem their guilt.

Exit. Knocking within

MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No—this my hand will rather
The **multitudinous** seas **incarnadine**,
Making the green one red.

Enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

My hands are of your colour, but I shame
To wear a heart so white.



Glossary

multitudinous:
vast, numerous

incarnadine:
bright crimson

Why is this scene important? Write one to two paragraphs (between 75 and 100 words) about:

- What it tells us about the characters or relationships at this point
- Any themes or ideas which are suggested from the language
- How the scene could link with other scenes or parts of the play

Well done for completing your 4-Step Check-Up on Macbeth!

You'll find lots of help with studying and revising the play, including revision cards and practice tests, on our website www.yorknotes.com