

## ***Macbeth* Study Guide Questions**

### **Act II**

**Act II, Scene i:** Setting \_\_\_\_\_

1. Act II opens with Banquo and his son, Fleance, discussing the fact that it is darker than usual. In spite of the darkness, Banquo confesses he is having trouble sleeping these days. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to Banquo, what gift did Duncan give to Lady Macbeth upon his arrival? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What has Banquo been dreaming about at night? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Consider Macbeth's and Banquo's lines from "If you shall cleave to my consent..." through "I shall be counsell'd." Paraphrase those lines in your own words:

Macbeth: \_\_\_\_\_

Banquo: \_\_\_\_\_

5. This scene ends with one of the most famous soliloquies of the play. What is Macbeth seeing before him? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Based on this soliloquy, what can you determine about Macbeth's state of mind? What is causing it? \_\_\_\_\_

**Act II, Scene ii:** Setting \_\_\_\_\_

1. What has Lady Macbeth done to set the plan in motion? \_\_\_\_\_

2. At the bottom of page 21, Lady Macbeth drops her guard for a moment to express two weaknesses. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Macbeth returns to his chamber after the murder. He is almost out of his mind with fear and anxiety. List four specific immediate worries he expresses:

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4. Lady Macbeth attempts to be gentle with her husband in his obvious state of crisis, until she discovers he has made a horrible mistake. What is that mistake? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who solves the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Upon returning, Lady Macbeth remarks that their hands are the same color. What does she mean by that? \_\_\_\_\_

7. But what does she say is the difference between her and Macbeth at this moment? \_\_\_\_\_

8. According to Lady Macbeth, all they need is " \_\_\_\_\_ " to clear them of this murder.

9. The scene ends with someone knocking at a door in the castle. What does Macbeth wish the knocking would do? \_\_\_\_\_

**Act II, Scene iii: Setting** \_\_\_\_\_

1. The knocking is upon the main gate of the castle, where there is a porter, or gate keeper, on duty drunk. This character provides comic relief after the intensity of the murder scene.

2. The person at the gate is Macduff, thane of Fife. Why has he come to Inverness, Macbeth's castle? \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to Lennox, what strange things happened during the night? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who discovers Duncan's body? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Macbeth confess to doing? What is his "reason"? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Lady Macbeth "falls out" after this confession. Why might she have done this? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Malcolm and Donalbain quietly make plans to leave Scotland. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Act II, Scene iv: Setting** \_\_\_\_\_

1. This scene is entirely an exposition scene, but some important information is provided for the audience. According to the conversation between Ross and the old man, what strange, unnatural things happened on the night of the murder? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who do people believe murdered the king? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who people believe hired the murderers? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who will be crowned king now? \_\_\_\_\_