*Macbeth*

Open Book Assignment

Act IV

# Scene 1

1. What is the couplet repeated by the witches in their chant? How does this affect the mood of the scene?
2. Witch 2 says, "By the pricking of my thumb, something wicked this way comes" (44-45). Significance? Irony?
3. What is Macbeth's attitude towards the witches *this time*?

**The apparitions are very important. Analyze them from Macbeth’s point of view.**

1. What is the first apparition and what does it indicate?
2. What is the second apparition and what does it predict/imply?
3. What is the third apparition and what is the impossibility it pictures for Macbeth?
4. What is the fourth apparition that the witches do not want to show Macbeth, and what is the implication of this appearance?
5. How do these apparitions build up Macbeth’s feelings of security?
6. What is Macbeth’s plan for revenging Macduff’s disloyalty? Quote.
7. Macbeth says (about the witches), "Infected be the air whereon they ride, And damned all those that trust them!" (157). What is ironic about this statement?

**Scene 2**

1. How does Lady Macduff feel about her husband? How do you know? Quote.
2. Where is Macduff?
3. Why does Macbeth have Macduff's family and servants killed?

**Scene 3**

1. This is a difficult scene. Malcolm is **testing** Macduff’s motives and loyalty to Scotland by seeing what kind of king Macduff would support. Malcolm falsely implies that he would not make a good king for Scotland. If Macduff still supported him, then Malcolm would know that Macduff only wanted to unseat Macbeth for selfish reasons and not for the good of the country. What are Malcolm’s 3 (false) reasons that he should not be king?

a)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: meaning he would threaten the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: meaning he would take\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: which Malcolm would use to “uproar the universal peace.”

1. What does Macduff say which finally sways Malcolm to joining Macduff in fighting Macbeth? Why are these words significant?
2. Malcolm says, "Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell. Though all things foul would wear the brows of grace, Yet grace must still look so." What does that mean?
3. Macduff says, "Oh, Scotland, Scotland!" Why?
4. The doctor enters to inform the men that King Edward of England is “touching” sufferers in order to help make them well. How does this report of the goodness of the King of England contrast with the nature of the King of Scotland?
5. What news does Ross bring to Macduff?
6. Malcolm incites Macduff to seek revenge on Macbeth for this evil deed. How does MacDuff respond?