*Macbeth*

Open Book Assignment

**Act V**

# Scene 1

*A lady-in-waiting and a doctor discuss Lady Macbeth’s sleepwalking. As they are speaking, Lady Macbeth enters, walking in her sleep. She rubs her hands repeatedly to rid them of the blood that she imagines stains them. From lady Macbeth’s words, the onlookers infer that she and Macbeth murdered Duncan, but the doctor is afraid to speak his suspicions.*

1. According to the waiting-gentlewoman, what has Lady Macbeth been doing?

1. When Lady Macbeth first enters the scene, what is she saying and doing?

1. What does the doctor do for Lady Macbeth?

1. **“To bed, to bed! There’s knocking at the gate.**

**Come, come, come, come, give me your hand! What’s done**

**cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed!” (V i 57-59)**

* + Who says this?
  + Significance?

# Scene 2

*In the country near Dunsinane, the Scottish lords prepare to join forces with the approaching English army to fight against Macbeth. The lords discuss their plans and Macbeth’s reported state of mind.*

1. What do the noblemen propose to do?

1. What is Macbeth doing in preparation for the attack?

1. **“Those he commands move only in command;**

**Nothing in love. Now does he feel his title**

**Hang loose about him, like a giant’s robe**

**Upon a dwarfish thief.” (V ii 19-22)**

* + Who says this?
  + Significance?

**Scene 3**

*Because of the witches’ prophecies, Macbeth feels confident that he is invincible inside his castle. A servant brings news of an approaching army.*

1. How does Macbeth reassure himself in the beginning of the scene?

1. **“I have lived long enough. My way of life**

**Is fall’n into the sear, the yellow leaf**,

**And that which should accompany old age,**

**As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends,**

**I must not look to have; but in their stead**

**Curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honor, breath,**

**Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not.” (V iii 22-28)**

* + Who says this?
  + Significance?

1. What does Seyton tell Macbeth?

1. What does the doctor tell Macbeth about Lady Macbeth’s condition?

1. When Macbeth tells the doctor to cure her, how does the doctor respond?

# Scene 4

*Malcolm order the soldiers to gather near Birnam Wood to camouflage themselves with branches as they advance toward Macbeth’s castle.*

1. What does Malcolm command the soldiers to do with the trees in Birnam Wood?

**Scene 5**

*In his castle, Macbeth awaits the approaching army. An offstage cry is heard, and Seyton enters with news that Lady Macbeth is dead. Depressed by the news, Macbeth delivers his famous “Tomorrow” soliloquy, declaring that life “is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,/ Signifying nothing.” When a messenger brings news that Birnam Wood is approaching the castle, Macbeth realizes that the witches have tricked him and that he is likely to be defeated.*

1. What does Macbeth say about the possibility of the army attempting to besiege the castle?

1. Why do the women cry out?

1. What is Macbeth’s response to Lady Macbeth’s death?
2. **“She should have died hereafter,**

**There would have been a time for such a word.**

**Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow**

**Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,**

**To the last syllable of recorded time,**

**And all our yesterdays have lighted fools**

**The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!**

**That struts and frets his hour upon the stage**

**And then is heard no more. It is a tale**

**Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,**

**Signifying nothing.” (V v 17-28)**

* + Who says this?
  + Significance?

**Scene 6**

*Upon reaching the front of Macbeth’s castle, Malcolm orders his troops to throw down their camouflage and attack. Siward and his son are to lead, with Malcolm and Macduff in reserve.*

1. What happens in this scene?

**Scene 7**

*On the field, Macbeth kills Young Siward. Macbeth exits with Macduff in pursuit. Old Siward informs Malcolm that Macbeth’s castle has fallen, barely defended by his disaffected subjects.*

1. What happens between Young Siward and Macbeth?

**Scene 8**

*Macduff confronts Macbeth, who at first refuses to fight him, warning Macduff that no one born of woman can harm him. Macduff explains that he was not born of woman but by Caesarean section. Macbeth again refuses to fight, but Macduff goads him by vowing to place him in a cage and display him as a fallen tyrant. Their fight begins to and continues offstage. Ross reports to Siward that Young Siward has died bravely. Macduff returns with the head of Macbeth and proclaims Malcolm king of Scotland. Malcolm promises to restore peace and order to the land.*

1. Why is Macduff able to kill Macbeth?
2. **“The time is free.” (V viii 55)**
   * Who says this?
   * Significance?