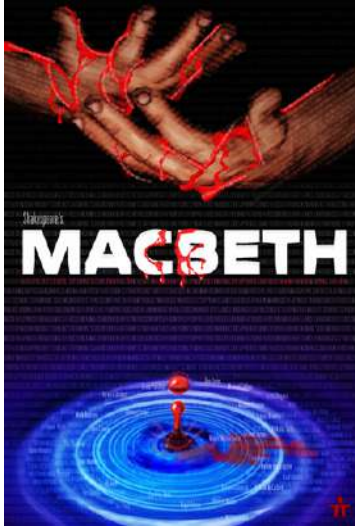


William Shakespeare's
Macbeth
A Study Guide for Act 5 (pp. 153-end)



Be able to define
(and read for the ideas of):

Fate	Loyalty
Free Will	Honor
Ambition	Destiny
Guilt	Fear
Power	Deception

Name: _____
(This guide may be collected—fair warning) ☺

Scene 1:

1. What is the setting of this scene?
2. Describe what Lady Macbeth does and says while sleepwalking:
3. How do the Doctor and her gentlewoman react?

Scene 2:

1. What is the setting of this scene?
2. The Scotsmen Menteith, Caithness, Angus, and Lennox join Prince Malcolm and the army he raised in England to fight Macbeth. What do they say about Macbeth's behavior and about his men?

Scene 3:

1. What is the setting of this scene?

2. Why is Macbeth so confident despite negative reports?
3. What kinds of things does Macbeth say to his servant, and why do you think he verbally abuses him?
4. What does the Doctor say about Lady Macbeth's condition? "Therein the patient / Must minister to himself" (V.iii.54-5).
5. How does Macbeth react to the diagnosis?

Scene 4:

1. What is the setting of this scene?
2. Why do the soldiers cut tree branches, and how does this fulfill the witches' prophecy?
3. What news do we get of Macbeth's soldiers?

Scene 5:

1. Notice once again that an important character dies off stage. When Macbeth is told that Lady Macbeth is dead, he gives the following speech which has become very famous:

When Sexton (Macbeth's remaining officer) tells him that the queen is dead, Macbeth says,

She should have died hereafter;
 There would have been a time for such a word.
 To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
 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!
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
 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.19-30).

Discuss the meaning of the quote:

2. What news does the Messenger bring that makes Macbeth decide to take to the battlefield?

Scene 6: In this quick scene, Malcolm and Siward (the English general) reach Macbeth's castle with their combined forces and prepare to do battle.

Scene 7:

Note: The science of warfare in the Middle Ages, the setting of Macbeth, had not progressed much since ancient Roman times. Gunpowder had not come into use yet. An army besieging a walled city or castle used huge battering rams to break down the gates, or catapults that could hurl large stones or torches over the walls. The longbow, a huge bow as much as six feet long, was the weapon of choice when opposing armies faced each other. For close range, combatants relied on the old-fashioned sword.

1. Whom does Macbeth kill and what effect does it have on Macbeth?
2. Why does Macduff want to be the one to kill Macbeth?

Scene 8:

1. Why is Macbeth reluctant to kill Macduff?
2. When Macbeth learns that Macduff was technically not "of woman born," he is devastated. What does Macbeth say of the witches and their prophesies?

Note: The term "Caesarian section" gives a clue to the awe in which the procedure was held. The procedure was named after Julius Caesar, who according to legend was delivered this way. However, it is actually much older, and the procedure was mentioned in Roman law as early as 715 BCE. Then again, childbirth itself engendered awe, and medical and surgical procedures of any sort had an almost magical aura. This, perhaps, explains why Shakespeare makes use of this device to give Macduff the power to defeat Macbeth.)

3. Why does Macbeth refuse to surrender, deciding instead to fight to the death?
4. When Siward learns that his son is dead, what concerns him?
5. Who kills Macbeth and how?

6. Who becomes King of Scotland?

7. What are we led to believe was the cause of Lady Macbeth's death?

Student Section:

1. **Write the most significant quote in the space below (including Act.scene.line)—and state how/why it is the most significant quote in this Act.**
2. **Write down one question you find worthy of discussion from this Act.**
3. **Select one of the ideas listed on the cover of this study guide to discuss in a brief paragraph of 3-5 sentences).**

<p>Act V: Quotable Quotes: Several of these will resurface on quizzes—be ready— (this means you need to understand them AND be able to relate them to literary devices; a few, for example, contain a type of irony...)</p>
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1. "She has light by her / Continually. 'Tis her command" (V.i.21-2).
2. "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" (V.i.34).
3. "The Thane of Fife had a wife" (V.i.41).
4. "She has spoke what she should not, I / am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has known" (V.i.47-8).
5. "The disease is beyond my practice" (V.i.54).
6. "Unnatural deeds / Do breed unnatural troubles" (V.i.69-70).
7. "Now does he feel / His secret murders sticking on his hands. / Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach. / Those he commands move only in command,

Nothing in love" (V.ii.19-23).

8. "Sexton! – I am sick at heart, / When I behold – Sexton, I say! – This push
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now. / I have lived long enough. My way of life / Is fall's 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" (V.iii.23-30).
9. "Hang those that talk of fear" (V. iii.42).
10. "Therein the patient / Must minister to himself" (V.iii.54-5).
11. "Let every soldier hew him down a bough / And bear's before him" (V.iv.6-7).
12. "She should have died hereafter:
There would have been a time for such a word.
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow
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!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
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.19-30).
13. "I 'gin to be aweary of the sun, / And wish th' estate o' th' world were now undone" (V.v.54-5).
14. "Make all our trumpets speak, give them all breath, / Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death"
(V.vii.11-12).
15. MACBETH: My name's Macbeth.
YOUNG SIWARD: The devil himself could not pronounce a title / More hateful to mine ear.
MACBETH: No, nor more fearful.

YOUNG SIWARD: Thou liest, abhorred tyrant! With my sword / I'll prove the lie thou speak'st
(V.vii.10-16)

16. "Let me find him, Fortune, / And more I beg not!" (V.vii.29-30).

17. "Macduff was from his mother's womb / Untimely ripped" (V.viii.19-20).

18. "Yet I will try to the last. Before my body / I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff, / And damned be him that first cries 'Hold, enough!'" (V.viii.37-9).

19. "So great a day as this is cheaply bought" (V.viii.42).

20. "Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt / He only lived but till he was a man....But like a man he died" (V.viii.44-8).

21. "Hail, King, for so thou art. Behold where stands / Th' usurper's cursed head. The time is free" (V.viii.54-55).

In the end, the cycle is complete; Macbeth's time is over. Now nature will create anew, all will be "planted newly" and with reinstated order, the age will regenerate itself; the order of God, a grand order of fate and destiny, is reasserted and the play ends on a triumphant note.

The tragedies are great lessons; they have much to teach; they shouldn't make the reader depressed, but purged; they give catharsis, leaving the reader wiser.

On a separate piece of paper, select two of the following to describe, using specific details from the play (write two paragraphs, one about each, using 5-7 sentences for each paragraph).

Consider:

1. The corruption of power
2. Blind ambition
3. Appearance vs. Reality
4. Superstition and its effects on human behavior
5. Gender roles (what is considered "manly?" what is considered "womanly?")