2017 Macbeth Reading Log Questions

Act I, Scene i

1. Who are the witches planning to meet with?
2. Scene 1 ends with a *couplet* and includes the line: “Fair is foul and foul is fair.”
   1. What does this mean in your own words?
   2. What is Shakespeare trying to tell the audience?

Act I, Scene ii

* Describe on your “Character List” the new characters you learn about in this scene:
  + King Duncan, Thane of Cawdor, Malcolm, and Ross.

1. In this scene, how is Macbeth described? What does he do in battle? Does the King look highly upon him? Why?
2. What is another, more modern word for “Thane”?
3. In lines 46-47, what look does Lennox describe in Ross’s eyes?
4. What do we learn from Ross about the “old” Thane of Cawdor?

**Act I, Scene iii**

1. Locate the lines where the witches make their predictions about Macbeth. Then, list those TWO predictions.
2. List the three contradictions made by the witches in lines 65-68.
3. Describe in your own words what EACH of the three contradictions mean.
   1. Contradiction 1
   2. Contradiction 2
   3. Contradiction 3
4. a) What title does the king decide to now give Macbeth for his valor/bravery in battle?
   1. b) How does Macbeth react to this news?
5. Describe in your own words the relationship between Macbeth and Banquo. *(focus on lines 150-154)*

**Act I, Scene iv**

1. According to Malcom, how did the Thane of Cawdor die?
2. a)Who said “Nothing in his life became him like his leaving it” ?
   * *b) What did he mean by this?*
3. a) How does the King try and judge a person’s character? (*Line 11-14*).
   * b) In your own mind: Can you judge a person this way? Why or why not? ***(3-4 sentences)***
4. Who will be the next King?
5. a) What does Macbeth suggest must be done to become a King? (Lines 48-53)
   * b) If you were Macbeth, would you feel the same way? Why or why not?

**Act I, Scene v**

1. a) What is Lady Macbeth doing at the beginning of this scene?

b) What does Lady Macbeth plan to do in lines 25-29?

* **Now, look at Lady Macbeth’s soliloquy on Lines 38-54:**

1. Why is she so upset that she is a woman (*Lines 39-41*)? Does it have to do with the time period the play was written? Why or why not?
2. Shakespeare uses vivid figurative language in this passage. How does this language help your (and the audience’s) perception of Lady Macbeth?
3. Do you think Lady Macbeth is “Fair” or “Foul”? Explain your reasons…

**Act I, Scene vi and vii**

1. Where does Scene vi take place? How does Banquo describe it? *(Lines 3-9)*
2. What thoughts and emotions does the picture on page 287 bring out? Do you agree with this portrayal of the story thus far? Why or why not? **(3-4 sentences)**
3. The first 26 lines of Scene vii are called a “soliloquy.”
   * a) List out Macbeth’s arguments *against* murdering Duncan in the soliloquy?
   * b) At the end of the soliloquy, what does he decide is the best course of action?
4. According to Lady Macbeth, what constitutes manliness? (Lines 35-55)
5. What arguments does Lady Macbeth use to convince Macbeth to carry out the murder?
6. a) What is Lady Macbeth’s plan?
   * b) What does this tell us about her character? (Lines 60-72)

\*Complete Act I Scene Chart

**Act II, Scene i**

1. Macbeth asks Banquo to meet him later for “some words.” What incentive does he offer Banquo?
2. How does Banquo reply?
3. In **4 sentences,** paraphrase Macbeth’s soliloquy in this scene…what does he see or think he sees? What does this tell us about his mental state?
4. What does the couplet mean?
5. After watching the film clip, describe IN DETAIL, 2-3 emotions that Macbeth is feeling during this soliloquy.

**Act II, Scene ii**

1. At the beginning of Scene ii, what is Lady Macbeth’s excuse for **not** committing the crime herself?
2. Lady Macbeth sensibly suggests Macbeth go wash the “filthy witness” from his hands after the murder. What does she mean by this?
3. How does Macbeth respond to her request?
4. Which tasks related to the murder does Lady Macbeth perform? List them all…
5. Two things trouble Macbeth immediately after the murder. What are they?

**Act II, Scene iii**

1. The “Drunken Porter” scene is one that Shakespeare puts in, to give the audience a laugh. At what point during this part did you smile or “LOL”? Why? (Or, if you found no humor in this part, why not?)
2. What 3 things does the Porter tell us that drinking does to us?

**When Duncan’s body is discovered, Macbeth utters a hypocritical statement, beginning with “Had I but died…” Although this speech is meant to be a lie, it actually contains Macbeth’s true feelings.**

1. How does Macbeth feel about murdering Duncan? What clues tell you how he feels?
2. What are King Duncan’s sons (Malcolm and Donalbain) afraid of? Where do they decide to go?

**Act II, Scene iv**

1. Why do Malcom and Donalbain leave the country after the murder?
2. What does the Old Man tell us about nature’s actions?
3. What **two** important facts does MacDuff tell us?

\*\*\*Complete Act II Scene Chart and Act I & II Packet

**Act III, Scene i**

1. a) How does Banquo react to Macbeth's being King?
   1. What does he suspect has happened to Duncan?
   2. If you were Banquo, how would you react if you suspected your friend had achieved a goal in a malicious or illegal manner? (3-4 sentences)
2. What does Macbeth learn from Banquo in lines 19-38?
   1. Why does he want to know it?
   2. What does he say about Malcolm and Donalbain in lines 31-34?
3. Re-Read Macbeth's soliloquy (Lines 49-73) carefully. Paraphrase his thoughts and emotions and discuss what is really bothering him at this time…**(5-6 sentences)**
4. a) How does Macbeth get the two murderers to agree to kill Banquo?
   1. Has he told them the truth about Banquo and himself? What are his lies?

What has brought the murderers to be willing to do a deed like this?

**Act III, Scene ii**

1. What is ironic or misleading about Lady Macbeth’s statement, “What’s done is done”? (Line 11-12)
2. a) What is Macbeth suggesting might be better than the terrible dreams that torment him nightly? (Lines 15-25)
   1. Who is “sleeping” more soundly than he is? Why?
3. Compare AND contrast the feelings of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in this scene. What changes do you see in Macbeth? Use ONE direct quote in your answer…

**Act III, Scene iii**

1. Summarize the action in Scene iii in 3 sentences. What is the major event that takes place?
2. What is Banquo’s dying request to his son, Fleance?
3. How is Fleance’s escape a turning point in this story? Do you think this news will affect Macbeth? Why?

**Act III, Scene iv**

1. Is Macbeth scared of Fleance at this time? Why?
2. a) What/Who does Macbeth see sitting on the throne?
   1. How does he react?
   2. What does he say to it?
3. What directly causes it to appear a 2nd time at the banquet? *(Line 90)*
4. Compare Macbeth’s reaction to the ghost appearing in his seat to the way that YOU would react if you saw something like that (3-4 sentences).
5. Predict what you think Macbeth will do next in the play (2-3 sentences).

**Act III, Scene v & vi**

1. Who is Hecate and what does she plan to do? List her plans…
2. What does Lennox imply about Macbeth in his speech at the beginning of Scene vi? *(lines 1-23)*
3. A) Where has Macduff gone?
   * B) Paraphrase what he hopes to do there…
4. What purpose does this scene serve for the audience? Explain how it affects you and your anticipation of what’s to come. And include a prediction as to who you think will emerge as the “Hero” in Acts IV and V? (3-4 sentences)

**Act IV, Scene i**

1. Describe the differences regarding the way that Macbeth treats the witches this time as compared to his last visit with them in Act I?
2. a) What does *each* of the **three** apparitions (or visions) that deal with Macbeth look like and what does it say?
   1. **Which one do you think is LEAST LIKELEY to occur?**
3. Explain the second thing that Macbeth demands to know from the witches (after the first 3 apparitions)? Why do you think he wants to know this?
4. What does Macbeth reveal he is going to do at the very end of the scene?

**Act IV, Scene ii**

1. Lady Macduff thinks her husband is a traitor. Infer why she thinks he has left her and the children? Would you feel this way if you were her? Why or why not? (2-3 sentences)
2. Identify the role that Macduff’s son seems to have taken in the household? Would you be willing to take on this role if your family needed it? Why or why not? Explain your thoughts in 3-4 sentences…
3. Who dies at the end of Scene ii? Imagine and describe the emotions that Macduff would be feeling if he were there to witness the events. (2-3 sentences)

**Act IV, Scene iii**

1. Why does Malcolm think he needs to test Macduff?
2. Identify the **three** things that Malcolm claims he is guilty of in the test with Macduff (Lines 76-84)?
3. Who is bringing an army to aid Scotland and how many troops will he bring?
4. Explain how Ross feels about Malcolm’s presence in Scotland (Lines 181-188)?
5. When Macduff learns the truth about his family, what do Malcolm and Ross tell him to do with his anger?
6. How would you handle the situation that Ross was faced with (having to deliver the news of Macduff’s Family being murdered)? Describe your thoughts in 2-3 sentences…

**Act V, Scene i**

1. Pay attention to the emotions in Lady Macbeth’s voice…What is the ***irony*** in Lady Macbeth’s sleep-walking speech (Lines 23-27 and 36-41) and what are her inner thoughts at this time?

(Irony- “the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning”)

1. a) What **three** previous events (murders) in the play does Lady Macbeth refer to in her sleepwalking?
   1. Which one do you think torments her the most? Why? (2-3 sentences)

**Act V, Scene ii and Scene iii**

1. ***“Now does he feel his title hang loose about him, like a giant’s robe upon a dwarfish thief.”***

- What does the imagery in this quote (Lines 20-21) tell us about Macbeth’s character?

1. Why does Macbeth claim to feel no fear?
2. In lines 25-31, what does Macbeth indicate he is in fact feeling?
3. Why would Macbeth put on armor before it is necessary (Line 33)?
4. What effect does the couplet of Scene iii have on the audience?

**Act V, Scene iv**

1. Where does this scene take place?
2. Explain IN DETAIL the battle strategy that Malcolm suggests in Lines 4-7.
   1. What might this do to Macbeth’s mental state if he sees this?
3. According to Malcolm , what is the attitude of Macbeth's troops?

(Lines 11-14)

**Act V, Scene v**

1. What news does Seyton give Macbeth? How does he react? How does this illustrate his current mental state? (*3 sentences total*)
2. Summarize (in 3 sentences) Macbeth’s soliloquy (Lines 21-30). Focus on what he is truly feeling at this point in the story…
3. What does the messenger inform Macbeth?

**Act V, Scene vi and Scene vii**

1. What is accomplished in Scene vi?
2. In Scene vii, how does Macbeth indicate he feels in lines 1-4?
3. Who does Macbeth kill? How would you feel watching this death if you were in the audience? Why? (2-3 sentences)…
4. In Scene vii, does Macbeth show signs of bravery, or is he just overconfident because of what the witches told him? Explain your answer (3-4 sentences).

**Act V, Scene viii (Last Scene!)**

1. What does Macduff tell Macbeth about his birth?
   1. How does Macbeth react to this?
2. Who kills Macbeth? How does he kill him and what do they do to a part of his body?
3. How does Siward react to the news of his son’s death? Is he proud of his son? How do you know this? (*Use a properly cited quote in your answer)*
4. Who will be the new king of Scotland? What does he profess he will do as the new king?
5. Think back to all of the witches predictions…Did they all come true? Did they lie at all? BE SPECIFIC!
6. If you had the ability to know your fate, would you want to know it? Why or why not? (5+ sentences in a paragraph…)
7. Name at least 8 people who die during the play, what Act and Scene it occurs in and the events surrounding their deaths.