***Macbeth***

*Act II Questions*

**Scene I**

1. When Banquo remarks that the night is especially dark, the audience can conclude that nature somehow reflects what is going on in the affairs of people. The dark night, in other words, reflects Macbeth’s dark desires. What atmosphere is created through the use of this device in this scene?

2. What purpose does the scene between Macbeth and Banquo serve? What evidence is there that Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth?

3. In Macbeth’s *aside* in Act I, scene III (beginning of line 140), the audience learns that Macbeth has an overactive imagination. To Macbeth, “Present fears/ Are less than horrible imaginings”. How would you describe Macbeth’s state of mind as he makes his way to King Duncan’s chambers?

**Scene II**

1. What evidence is there that Lady Macbeth is not as strong as she would like be? What does she warn Macbeth the dangers of thinking too deeply on their deeds?

2. Duncan is murdered off stage. Why do you think Shakespeare would have this?

3. Lady Macbeth suggests that she would kill King Duncan herself. Why does she change her mind? What does this emphasize about her character?

4. What sentiment does Macbeth express at the end of this scene? What does this reveal about Macbeth’s character? Why would it be necessary to emphasize this point?

**Scene III**

1. How does the night, as described by Lennox, compare with the night as experienced by the Macbeths in the previous scene?

2. Use a T-Chart to compare Macbeth in this scene and the previous.

3. Lady Macbeth takes centre stage twice in this scene. What do her actions reveal about her character? Does she genuinely faint or is she deliberately diverting attention away from Macbeth?

4. Why is Malcolm unwilling to put on appearances for the sake of the Scottish Lords?

**Scene IV**

1. Macduff refuses to go to Scone to see Macbeth crowned. What reasons do you think he has for his decision? What are your first impressions of Macduff (use this scene and previous)?

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