

Macbeth Act I Scene I

1. What is the significance of the storm that's happening in this scene?
2. What do you think 'Fair is foul and foul is fair' means?
3. Who are Graymalkin and Paddock?

Macbeth Act I Scene II

1. How does the Captain describe Macbeth?
2. What did the Norwegian king do in the battle?

Macbeth Act I Scene II

3. Why is the Thane of Cawdor a 'disloyal traitor'?
4. What has Macbeth 'won' by the end of this scene?

Macbeth Act I Scene III

1. What do the witches plan to do to avenge the first witch?
2. How does this link to King James I, who was one of the first people to see Macbeth performed?

Macbeth Act I Scene III

3. Why are Macbeth's words 'So foul and fair a day I have not seen.' significant?
4. Why does Banquo doubt the witches are women?
5. What do the witches tell Macbeth?

Macbeth Act I Scene III

6. What do they promise Banquo?
7. What news does Ross bring?
8. What does Banquo mean by 'What, can the devil speak true?'

Macbeth Act I Scene III

9. In his speech that starts 'Two truths are told...'; what are Macbeth's thoughts about what has just happened?

Macbeth Act I Scene IV

1. What has happened to the first Thane of Cawdor and how is it described?
2. What mistake did Duncan make in his relationship with the first Thane of Cawdor?

Macbeth Act I Scene IV

3. Where does Macbeth say his duty lies?
4. How does Macbeth react when King Duncan says he is bequeathing the throne to his son, Malcolm?
5. How does King Duncan feel about Macbeth?

Macbeth Act I Scene V

1. Why does Lady Macbeth fear Macbeth's 'nature'?
2. What does Lady Macbeth plan to do once Macbeth returns to her?
3. Why will Duncan's arrival be a 'fatal entrance'?

Macbeth Act I Scene V

4. What does Lady Macbeth mean by 'unsex me here'?
5. When Lady Macbeth says '...I feel now/ The future in the instant', what does she mean?

Macbeth Act I Scene V

6. Lady Macbeth advises Macbeth 'Look like th'innocent flower/But be the serpent under't.' What is she telling him to do?

Macbeth Act I Scene VI

1. What are Duncan's and Banquo's observations about Macbeth's castle?
2. How does Lady Macbeth greet King Duncan?

Macbeth Act I Scene VII

1. In his soliloquy, what issues does Macbeth see with killing the king?
2. What does Macbeth decide to do about the planned murder?
3. How does Lady Macbeth persuade Macbeth to continue with the plan?

Macbeth Act I Scene VII

4. What are the details of the plan?
5. Why does Macbeth say 'Bring forth men-children only' to his wife?
6. What does Macbeth's 'I am settled' mean?



'Macbeth' Act I Quiz Cards Answers

Macbeth Act I

Scene I

1. The storm foreshadows the disruption of the natural order that both the witches and Macbeth bring about.
2. It means the natural or correct order of the world is disrupted, where beauty is ugliness and ugliness is beauty. Everything is the complete opposite.
3. They are the familiars or servants of the witches – Graymalkin is a cat and Paddock is a toad.

Macbeth Act I

Scene II

1. The Captain says that Macbeth is a brave soldier, who took on Macdonwald single-handedly and killed him without hesitation.
2. Once King Duncan's army had defeated the Irish, the Norwegian King decided to invade to take advantage of the fact that they were tired and depleted.
3. The Thane of Cawdor has joined forces with the King of Norway against King Duncan.
4. By the end of the scene, Macbeth has won the title of Thane of Cawdor.

Macbeth Act I

Scene III

1. They plan to sink the ship of a sailor by sending wind to buffet the ship. The first witch also says she will drain him of energy, stop him from sleeping and let him die a slow miserable death without being able to reach the shore. All of this is because the sailor's wife wouldn't give the first witch a chestnut!
2. King James had a strong belief in the power of witches and actually blamed witchcraft for the storms that stopped his wife from reaching England when she came from Denmark to marry him.
3. Macbeth's words echo the words the witches said in scene one. This shows his link with the witches.
4. The witches are old women who have 'beards' – hairs on their chin, which is why Banquo hesitates to call them women.
5. They tell Macbeth that he is Thane of Cawdor and that he will be king.
6. They say Banquo will not be king, but will be the father of a line of kings.
7. Ross says King Duncan is pleased with Macbeth and so has given him the title of Thane of Cawdor.
8. Banquo is surprised that the witches were speaking the truth. Witches and witchcraft were associated with the devil at this time.
9. Macbeth thinks that as the witches got two of his titles right (Glamis and Cawdor) that they may also be right about him becoming king. Macbeth tries to work out whether their words are good or evil and doesn't really come to a conclusion. He frightens himself because his thoughts turn to murder and he finds his mind in turmoil about the events of the day.

Macbeth Act I

Scene IV

1. The first Thane of Cawdor has been executed. But first he confessed his crimes against the king, asked for his forgiveness and truly regretted his actions. He died nobly.
2. King Duncan says he 'built an absolute trust' on the Thane of Cawdor. He says you can't tell what a man is really like by looking at his face. This suggests that Duncan is perhaps not a good judge of character and trusts the wrong people.
3. Macbeth is very clear that his loyalty is to the king '...our duties/Are to your throne...'



4. The first thing Macbeth thinks is that Malcolm stands in between him and the throne! He hopes his hidden thoughts are not visible to the world and that his eyes may not see his evil deeds if he does them.
5. The king believes Macbeth is brave and valiant and cannot be equalled by anyone.

Macbeth Act I

Scene V

1. Lady Macbeth thinks Macbeth may be too 'soft' to carry out a plan that will make him king quickly '...To catch the nearest way...'
2. She says she will 'pour my spirits in thine ear' which means she will use her powers of persuasion to dispel Macbeth's qualms and push him to kill King Duncan.
3. Lady Macbeth has no intention that King Duncan will leave the castle alive, thus he is entering to meet his death.
4. Women are traditionally associated with nurturing and giving life. Lady Macbeth does not want these feelings as she wants to be able to drive forward the plan to kill the king. Thus, she asks the spirits to take away her sex and any soft-heartedness that goes along with it.
5. Lady Macbeth feels that the future is here now because they know the future and can take action to make it happen.
6. Lady Macbeth is telling Macbeth that he will have to conceal his evil and his murderous thoughts under a façade of friendliness and kindness so that no one will suspect what they are up to.

Macbeth Act One

Scene VI

1. Ironically, both Duncan and Banquo think the castle is very pleasant and in a place where the air is fresh 'The air nimbly and sweetly recommends itself...'. Duncan observes that martins are nesting there and says that only happens in places where the air is clean.
2. Lady Macbeth is the perfect hostess. She says whatever they do for the king, it won't be enough to make up for the honour of having him in their home. She says the honours he has given them makes them grateful and that they will always support him.

Macbeth Act One

Scene VII

1. Macbeth is concerned that once he commits the act of murder, he could be found out and have to take the consequences. Not only that, but he would be judged again in the afterlife. He feels guilty because he is both a relative of the king and is supposed to be his loyal soldier. Macbeth says he should be stopping him from getting murdered and not thinking of doing it himself.
2. Macbeth backs out of the plan to kill Duncan and says he has honours and good opinions and should be celebrating them not thinking about doing something that would destroy them.
3. Lady Macbeth basically tells Macbeth he is not a man if he does not carry out their plan. She says her will is stronger as she would have 'dashed the brains out' of a baby if she had promised to do so. She also says that he does not properly love her if he will not do this.
4. Lady Macbeth says she will get Duncan's servants drunk while he sleeps, so much so that they too will fall asleep, leaving him unguarded. Then it will be easy to kill him with the servants' daggers and blame them.
5. He thinks that Lady Macbeth's spirit is so strong that she would only be able to create male babies. There is a sense that she has taken on male characteristics.
6. This means he is decided – he will carry out the plan.