**Macbeth Reading Guide**

**Title**: Macbeth

**Author**: William Shakespeare

**Setting**: in Scotland during the Middle Ages, with some scenes in England

**Summary**: *The Tragedy of Macbeth*is one of Shakespeare’s best-known plays and most popular tragedies. It tells the tale of a Scottish general whose lust for power leaves him vulnerable to the prophecy of witches, who tell him that he is destined to become king of Scotland and that nothing can stand in his way. Macbeth becomes obsessed with the prophecy, and as is characteristic of Shakespeare’s tragic heroes, his obsession leads to deadly consequences. *The Tragedy of Macbeth* explores the complexity of kingly ambition and human weakness. As Macbeth lives out the witches’ prophecy, readers are provided insight into his thoughts and feelings through seven soliloquies that chronicle his descent into madness.

**Major Characters:**

1. **Macbeth**: Macbeth is the protagonist of the play, a Scottish nobleman and a valiant warrior. Initially, he is loyal to King Duncan and is honored for his bravery in battle. However, his ambition and desire for power lead him to commit regicide and a series of subsequent murders. Macbeth's character is complex, as he struggles with guilt, paranoia, and a sense of inevitability about his fate. His moral decline and eventual downfall are central to the play's tragic arc.
2. **Lady Macbeth**: Lady Macbeth is Macbeth's wife, a deeply ambitious woman who is instrumental in convincing Macbeth to murder King Duncan. She is strong-willed, manipulative, and unyielding, often questioning Macbeth's masculinity to spur him into action. However, as the play progresses, the weight of their crimes takes a toll on her mental state, leading to sleepwalking and visions of bloodstains that she cannot wash away. Her descent into madness and eventual death underscores the play's themes of guilt and retribution.
3. **Banquo**: Banquo is a Scottish nobleman and a general in King Duncan's army, as well as Macbeth's friend. Unlike Macbeth, Banquo remains morally upright and skeptical of the witches' prophecies. He is also prophesied to father a line of kings, which makes him a threat to Macbeth. Banquo's ghost haunts Macbeth, symbolizing Macbeth's guilt and the consequences of his murderous actions.
4. **Macduff**: Macduff is a Scottish nobleman who becomes one of Macbeth's primary antagonists. He is loyal to Scotland and is deeply affected by the tyrannical rule of Macbeth. After Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's family, Macduff vows to take revenge. He ultimately fulfills the witches' prophecy by killing Macbeth.
5. **King Duncan**: Duncan is the benevolent and just king of Scotland. His murder by Macbeth marks the turning point of the play, setting off a chain of events that lead to Macbeth's rise and fall. Duncan's death symbolizes the disruption of natural order and the consequences of unchecked ambition.
6. **Malcolm**: Malcolm is King Duncan's eldest son and the rightful heir to the throne. After his father's murder, he flees to England to escape Macbeth's tyranny and later returns with an army to reclaim his throne. Malcolm represents hope and the restoration of order in Scotland.
7. **The Three Witches**: The witches, also known as the Weird Sisters, are supernatural beings who prophesy Macbeth's rise to power and his eventual downfall. They embody the theme of fate and the supernatural, manipulating Macbeth with their ambiguous and foreboding predictions. Their presence and influence underscore the play's exploration of free will versus destiny.

**Themes:**

* **Ambition and Power**: The play explores the corrupting nature of unchecked ambition. Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's desire for power leads them to commit heinous acts, resulting in their psychological unraveling and eventual downfall. The destructive consequences of their ambition serve as a cautionary tale about the dangers of overreaching for power.
* **Fate and Free Will**: the play delves into the tension between fate and free will. The witches' prophecies set the stage for Macbeth's actions, but it is his own choices that lead to his ruin. The play raises questions about whether characters are driven by destiny or their own decisions, and how much control they truly have over their lives.
* **Guilt and Conscience**: Guilt is a pervasive theme in manifesting in the psychological torment of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. The hallucinations and sleep disturbances they experience are physical manifestations of their inner turmoil and remorse. The play examines how guilt can consume individuals and lead to their undoing.
* **The Natural vs. the Unnatural**: The murder of King Duncan, a divinely appointed ruler, sets off a series of unnatural events, including Macbeth's tyrannical rule and the disturbances in nature (e.g., horses eating each other, unnatural darkness). The play suggests that violating the natural order leads to chaos and destruction.
* **Loyalty and Betrayal**: Loyalty and betrayal are central themes in the play. Macbeth's betrayal of King Duncan, Banquo, and Macduff contrasts with the loyalty shown by characters like Banquo and Macduff. The consequences of betrayal are severe, leading to mistrust, paranoia, and ultimately, the downfall of the betrayer.

**Review Questions**: Answering the following questions will increase your comprehension of the play. Respond to these questions by writing the answers in your notebook. *Some of the questions require you to express an opinion or describe your reaction to events in the play. In these instances, there is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will vary.* The answers to factual questions are included in this reading guide.

**Act I**

**Scene I:**

1. Why do you think Shakespeare chose to open the play with this scene? What effect do you think it has on the audience?
2. Analyze the line "Fair is foul, and foul is fair." What do you think this paradox means, and how might it foreshadow events in the play?

**Scene 2:**

1. Describe the character of Macbeth to someone that has not read this play. Include your description along with at least one quote that supports your thinking.
2. How does Ross's report further develop Macbeth's character? What additional qualities are revealed?
3. Shakespeare uses imagery in this scene to show verses tell. Find an example of imagery that sticks out to you from this scene. Include it here along with your reasons for selecting it.
4. Consider the theme of loyalty. How is it portrayed in this scene, and which characters embody this theme? Do you align with how loyalty is portrayed in this scene? Explain your thinking.

**Scene 3:**

1. How does Macbeth react to the witches' prophecies? What does this reveal about his character and ambitions? How does this change your previous explanation of his character?
2. Discuss Banquo's reaction to the witches. How does his response differ from Macbeth's, and what does this suggest about their characters?
3. Describe the relationship between Macbeth and Banquo. How would you describe their relationship to someone who has not read the play up and to this scene? Include your explanation along with at least one quote that supports your thinking.
4. Reflect on the concept of fate presented in this scene. Do you believe that individuals have the power to shape their own destinies, or are their paths predetermined by fate? Use examples from the scene and your own experiences or beliefs to discuss whether you think Macbeth is a master of his fate or a victim of it.

**Scene 4:**

1. Analyze King Duncan's reaction to the execution of the Thane of Cawdor. What does this reveal about his leadership and values? What do you think about him as a leader? Explain your thinking.
2. Do you agree with King Duncan's observation that it's difficult to discern someone's true intentions based on their outward appearance? Can you think of any real-life examples or personal experiences where appearances were deceiving? Discuss how this idea of deceptive appearances might influence your understanding of the characters and plot in Macbeth.
3. Reflect on the ambitions and motivations of Duncan and Macbeth as presented in this scene. How does Duncan's contentment with his kingship and his trust in others contrast with Macbeth's growing ambition and internal conflict? Analyze how these differences set the stage for the unfolding drama and foreshadow potential conflicts between the two characters.
4. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies a key theme in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.

**Scene 5**

1. Analyze Lady Macbeth's reaction to Macbeth's letter. What does this reveal about her character and ambitions? How would you describe her to someone that has not read the play up and to this point.
2. How does Lady Macbeth's determination contrast with Macbeth's hesitation? What do you think this reveals about their characters? Explain your thinking.
3. Describe the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. How would you describe their relationship to someone who has not read the play up and to this scene? Include your explanation along with at least one quote that supports your thinking.
4. Lady Macbeth's determination to push Macbeth toward murder raises important questions about the ethical boundaries of ambition. Can ambition ever go too far? Reflect on a situation from history, literature, or your own experience where someone's ambition led to negative consequences. How does this example compare to Lady Macbeth's ambition in this scene? Do you think her ambition is admirable or dangerous? Explain your reasoning.

**Scene 6:**

1. What does Duncan's praise of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth reveal about his character and his trust in them? Does his praise of them surprise you based on what you have learned about his character? Explain your thinking.
2. Examine the dramatic irony in this scene. How do you think the audience's knowledge of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's plans might affect their perception of the characters' actions? How does it affect your perception?
3. How does Lady Macbeth's behavior toward Duncan and his guests contrast with her earlier soliloquy? What does this reveal about her ability to deceive? Would you believe Lady Macbeth yourself if you did not know her plans? Explain your thinking.
4. Consider the descriptions and interactions in this scene that reveal the setting of Macbeth's castle. How do the imagery and language used by Duncan and Lady Macbeth help you visualize the setting? Discuss how the welcoming and serene appearance of the castle contrasts with the dark intentions harbored within its walls. What does this contrast suggest about the themes of appearance versus reality in the play? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.

**Scene 7:**

1. In this scene, Lady Macbeth questions Macbeth's manliness to persuade him to follow through with the murder of King Duncan. Analyze how Lady Macbeth defines manliness in this scene. What qualities does she associate with being a "man"? How does Macbeth respond to her provocations? Do Macbeth’s responses surprise you based on what you have already learned about his character? Explain your thinking.
2. Consider the historical context of Shakespeare's time when analyzing the idea of manliness presented in this scene. How might the societal expectations of masculinity in the early 17th century influence Lady Macbeth's arguments and Macbeth's internal conflict? Compare these historical implications with modern views on manliness. Do you think the pressure to conform to certain ideals of manliness is still relevant today? Provide examples to support your analysis.
3. Reflect on the broader implications of courage as depicted in this scene. What does true courage mean within the context of the play, and how do the characters' actions and words redefine or challenge this concept? Consider how Macbeth's internal struggle with his sense of courage and morality impacts his character development. Do you think his ultimate decision is an act of courage or cowardice? Explain your reasoning with references to the scene.
4. Analyze the ending of this scene. How does the final exchange between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth set the stage for the events to come?

**Act 2**

**Scene I:**

1. How does Banquo's conception of what it means to be a man differ from the ideas presented by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth earlier in the play? Does Banquo's definition of manhood align with what you have learned so far about his character? How do these qualities impact his actions and decisions in this scene? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.
2. Examine Macbeth's soliloquy for examples of foreshadowing. What future events does he hint at, and how does this build suspense? Do you think Shakespeare’s use of foreshadowing here is successful? Explain your thinking.
3. How does Banquo's conception of what it means to be a man differ from the ideas presented by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth earlier in the play? Discuss how Banquo's definition of manhood aligns with his sense of honor and integrity. How do these qualities impact his actions and decisions in this scene? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.
4. The dialogue between Banquo and Macbeth is filled with tension and underlying motives. How would you describe the interaction between the two characters in this scene? Consider the tone, subtext, and any hidden meanings in their conversation. How does this dialogue foreshadow the events to come and reveal the evolving dynamics between Banquo and Macbeth? Explain your thinking.

**Scene 2:**

1. Consider Macbeth's reflections and statements about the murder in this scene. How does he cope with the guilt and fear that arise from his actions? Compare his coping mechanisms to Lady Macbeth's response to the same event. How do their differing reactions highlight their individual characters and foreshadow their future development in the play? Do their reactions surprise you based on what you have learned about their characters? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.
2. Compare the Macbeth in this scene to the one you read about earlier in the play. How has his character evolved over time? What do you think contributed the most to this development? Explain your thinking.
3. Shakespeare uses symbolism in this scene to communicate deeper meanings in the play. Find an example of symbolism that sticks out to you from this scene. Include it here along with your reasons for selecting it.

**Scene 3:**

1. Analyze the role of the Porter in this scene. Why do you think Shakespeare included him? Explain your thinking.
2. Analyze Lady Macbeth's fainting spell. Do you think it is genuine or an act? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.
3. Examine the reactions of Macduff and Lennox upon discovering Duncan's murder. How do their responses differ, and what does this reveal about their characters?
4. Malcolm and Donalbain decide to flee after discovering their father, King Duncan, has been murdered. Analyze their decision to escape and what it reveals about their characters and their understanding of the political situation. Do you think their choice was wise? Why or why not? Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

**Scene 4:**

1. Examine the role of fate and free will in this scene. How do the characters interpret the events that have occurred, and what does this reveal about their beliefs?
2. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of ambition in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
3. Ross and the Old Man reflect on the state of Scotland and the implications of Duncan's death. How does their dialogue help to convey the sense of chaos and uncertainty that has descended upon the kingdom? Discuss how their perspectives on the recent events compare and contrast with those of other characters in the play. What do you think this scene suggest about the broader impact of Macbeth's actions on the world around him?
4. Analyze Macduff's decision not to attend Macbeth's coronation. What does this reveal about his character and his suspicions?

**Act 3**

**Scene I:**

1. Consider the theme of manhood as it re-emerges in this scene, particularly in Macbeth's interactions with the murderers he hires to kill Banquo and Fleance. How does Macbeth appeal to their sense of manhood to persuade them to carry out the murder? Compare and contrast this manipulation with Lady Macbeth's earlier taunts about Macbeth's manliness. What does this recurring theme suggest about the characters' values and motivations? Explain your thinking.
2. Banquo expresses his suspicions about Macbeth's rise to power, hinting that he believes Macbeth may have played a foul role in fulfilling the witches' prophecies. How does Banquo's soliloquy and his interactions with Macbeth in this scene contribute to the development of his character?
3. How does Macbeth's manipulation and strategic planning reflect his development as a character? Discuss how his increasing willingness to use deceit and violence to maintain his power marks a significant shift from his earlier portrayal. What does this evolution reveal about the corrupting influence of power and ambition? How would your previous descriptions of Macbeth shift after this scene?
4. Shakespeare uses foreshadowing in this scene to hint at future events. Find an example of foreshadowing that sticks out to you from this scene. Include it here along with your reasons for selecting it.

**Scene 2:**

1. Shakespeare uses imagery in this scene to show verses tell. Find an example of imagery that sticks out to you from this scene. Include it here along with your reasons for selecting it.
2. Consider Lady Macbeth's interactions with Macbeth in this scene. How does her attempt to reassure and support Macbeth reveal her own vulnerabilities and fears? Discuss how her state of mind contrasts with her earlier portrayal as a determined and ruthless character. What does this shift in her mental and emotional state foreshadow about her future in the play? Use textual evidence to support your analysis.
3. Consider the traditional gender roles and expectations of the early 17th century. How does Macbeth's attempt to protect Lady Macbeth in this scene align with or challenge these societal norms? Discuss how this protective attitude impacts their relationship and the development of Lady Macbeth's character. Do you think Macbeth's actions are genuinely motivated by concern for Lady Macbeth, or are they influenced by other factors? Include at least one quote to support your thinking.

**Scene 3:**

1. Analyze the role of the Third Murderer in this scene. Why do you think Macbeth sent an additional murderer?
2. In this scene, the murderers attack Banquo and Fleance as part of Macbeth's plan to thwart the witches' prophecy. How does this scene explore the tension between fate and free will? Analyze how Macbeth's actions to alter or control his destiny reflect his struggle with these themes. Do you think Macbeth's attempt to change the prophecy demonstrates the power of free will, or does it ultimately reinforce the idea of fate?
3. Fleance's escape from the murderers is a pivotal moment in the play. How does Fleance's escape influence the unfolding plot and Macbeth's sense of security? Analyze the significance of this event in the context of the witches' prophecy and Macbeth's attempts to control his fate. What implications does Fleance's survival have for Macbeth's future?

**Scene 4:**

1. Macbeth is haunted by the ghost of Banquo during the banquet. How does the appearance of Banquo's ghost affect Macbeth's behavior and state of mind? Based on his reactions, what inferences can you make about Macbeth's psychological state and his sense of guilt? Analyze the significance of this supernatural encounter and its impact on Macbeth's control over his actions and decisions.
2. Consider Lady Macbeth's interactions with the guests and with Macbeth during the banquet. How does she try to explain and mitigate Macbeth's strange behavior? Discuss the strategies she uses to address the crisis and the effectiveness of her actions. Are you surprised by how she handles the situation, given her earlier portrayal in the play? Explain your thinking.
3. Banquo's ghost appears to Macbeth during the banquet, causing him to react with visible fear and distress. How does Shakespeare's use of Banquo's ghost convey Macbeth's overwhelming sense of guilt? Do you find this literary decision by Shakespeare to be effective? Explain your thinking.

**Scene 5**

1. Describe Hecate to someone that has not read this play. Include your description along with at least one quote that supports your thinking.
2. Why do you think Shakespeare included this scene in the play? Evaluate the potential reasons for introducing Hecate at this point in the story. How does this scene contribute to the development of the plot and the themes of fate?

**Scene 6:**

1. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of loyalty in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
2. Lennox and another Lord discuss the current state of Scotland and the actions of Malcolm and Macduff. How do Malcolm and Macduff's decisions to seek assistance from England reflect their characters and their roles in opposing Macbeth? What do you think their choices suggest about their sense of duty and their vision for Scotland's future?
3. Lennox delivers a speech filled with irony and sarcasm as he discusses the recent events in Scotland. Reflect on Lennox's tone and choice of words in this speech. What can you infer about his true feelings towards Macbeth and the current state of Scotland? How does Lennox use irony to convey his message, and what does this reveal about the growing dissent among the nobles? Form your own opinion about Lennox's perspective and discuss how his speech might relate to situations of political dissent or hidden criticism in today's world.

**Act 4**

**Scene I:**

1. Shakespeare heavily uses symbolism in this scene to communicate deeper meanings in the play. Find an example of symbolism that sticks out to you from this scene. Include it here along with your reasons for selecting it.
2. Macbeth returns to seek further guidance from the witches, who present him with a series of apparitions and prophecies. What can you infer about the significance of the witches' presence and their influence over Macbeth's actions and decisions? Do you think the witches are merely predicting the future or actively shaping it?
3. After hearing the witches' prophecies, Macbeth vows to kill Macduff's family and anyone associated with him. How does this vow reflect the development of Macbeth's character from earlier in the play? Analyze the changes in Macbeth's personality, motivations, and moral compass. What does this ruthless decision reveal about his descent into tyranny and his increasing detachment from humanity? Based on your analysis, evaluate Macbeth's development as a character. Do you think he is entirely responsible for his actions, or are there other factors at play?

**Scene 2:**

1. Consider the conversation between Lady Macduff and her son. How does their discussion about Macduff's departure and the idea of protection and bravery relate to the recurring theme of manhood in the play? Discuss how this scene contrasts with earlier portrayals of manhood, particularly those involving Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. In your opinion, what does this scene suggest about the different interpretations of what it means to be a man?
2. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of power in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
3. Consider the shift in mood throughout this scene, from the initial conversation between Lady Macduff and her son to the arrival of the murderers. How does the mood change, and what techniques does Shakespeare use to create this transition? Evaluate the effectiveness of these techniques in conveying the sense of impending danger and helplessness. In your opinion, how does the mood of this scene enhance the overall impact of the play's themes of loyalty, betrayal, and innocence?

**Scene 3:**

1. How does Malcolm's initial distrust and subsequent revelation of his true nature affect Macduff? Evaluate how this dialogue contributes to the development of both characters and their relationship. In your opinion, what does this scene suggest about the qualities of effective leadership and the challenges of reclaiming a kingdom?
2. Consider the broader implications of the concept of manliness as discussed in this scene, particularly in the context of Macduff's reaction to his family's murder. How does Macduff's insistence on feeling his grief as a man challenge or reinforce traditional notions of masculinity? Evaluate how this moment contributes to the development of Macduff's character and the themes of the play. In your opinion, what does this scene suggest about the balance between strength and vulnerability in defining true manhood?
3. Consider Ross's interactions with Malcolm and Macduff. How does his role as the bearer of tragic news influence the dynamics between the characters and the themes of loyalty and revenge? Evaluate how Ross's entrance and the information he provides serve to heighten the emotional intensity of the scene. In your opinion, what is the significance of Ross's timing and the way he conveys the news?
4. Quite a bit happens during this scene. Pick out what you think are the most important moments and work to create a concise five sentence summary of the events.

**Act 5**

**Scene I:**

1. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of guilt in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
2. Consider the interactions between the Gentlewoman and the Doctor in this scene. How do their discussions and observations of Lady Macbeth's behavior help to convey the gravity of her mental decline? Do you think Shakespeare effectively uses these characters to contrast with Lady Macbeth's previous strength and ambition? How do their reactions and dialogue add depth to the portrayal of Lady Macbeth's downfall?

**Scene 2:**

1. Consider the strategic movements and plans discussed by the lords in this scene, as they prepare to confront Macbeth. What can you infer about the strengths and weaknesses of Macbeth's position based on this scene?
2. Consider the lords' conversation where they describe Macbeth's rule as being sustained by fear rather than genuine loyalty. Evaluate the impact of this dynamic on the morale and effectiveness of Macbeth's forces. How does leading through fear affect the overall strength and unity of a leader's followers? Discuss how this theme is relevant both in the context of the play and in real-world leadership scenarios.

**Scene 3:**

1. Consider Macbeth's interaction with his servant. How does this behavior compare to earlier instances in the play where Macbeth displayed different facets of his personality? Were you surprised by his outburst, and what does it suggest about his current state of mind and leadership? Discuss how this scene contributes to your understanding of Macbeth's transformation over the course of the play.
2. Based on his actions and dialogue in this scene, what can you infer about Macbeth's psychological state and his perception of the witches' prophecies? Analyze his interactions with the Doctor and his soldiers to draw conclusions about his mindset and the extent of his reliance on the prophecies. What do you think this scene suggests about Macbeth's ability to face the challenges ahead?

**Scene 4:**

1. What can you infer about the morale and determination of Malcolm, Siward, and their troops? Analyze the dialogue and actions of the characters to draw conclusions about their confidence and readiness to confront Macbeth. How does this scene foreshadow the coming conflict and the fulfillment of the witches' prophecy? Additionally, share your opinion on the readiness and resolve of Malcolm's forces. Do you believe they are well-prepared for the battle ahead, and why?

**Scene 5**

1. What can you infer about Macbeth's state of mind and his outlook on life based on this soliloquy? Analyze his reflections on time and existence to draw conclusions about his emotional and psychological condition. What does this scene suggest about Macbeth's sense of hopelessness and the consequences of his actions? How would you describe his current state to someone who has not read this scene?
2. Consider the context in which Macbeth receives the news of Lady Macbeth's death and his subsequent reflections on life's meaninglessness. How does his reaction compare to his earlier displays of ambition and determination? Examine how this moment contributes to the development of Macbeth's character and the themes of the play. In your opinion, does Macbeth's reaction to his wife's death evoke sympathy or highlight his moral decline? Why or why not?

**Scene 6:**

1. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of fate and free will in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
2. Consider the interactions between Macduff and the other leaders. How does Macduff's role in the planning and execution of the battle reflect his qualities as a warrior and a leader? Evaluate how Shakespeare uses Macduff's character to embody themes of justice and retribution. In your opinion, how effective is Macduff in rallying the troops and preparing for the final confrontation with Macbeth? Why do you think Shakespeare chose to highlight Macduff's role at this crucial moment?

**Scene 7:**

1. Pick the line that you think is the most significant to this scene. Include the quote and your reasons for selecting it. What do you think it contributes to the scene?
2. Reflect on how Shakespeare conveys the chaos of battle through the dialogue and actions of the characters in this scene. What specific elements contribute to the sense of urgency and disorder? In your opinion, how effectively does Shakespeare capture the chaos and unpredictability of battle in this scene?

**Scene 8:**

1. Pick one quote that you think exemplifies the theme of power in this scene. Include that quote here. Explain what you think the quote exemplifies along with an explanation of why you selected it.
2. Consider the final moments of this scene, where Macduff emerges victorious and presents Macbeth's severed head to Malcolm. What can you infer about the future of Scotland and the restoration of order based on this outcome? Analyze how the characters' reactions and the shift in power dynamics reflect the play's resolution. In your opinion, does this scene provide a satisfying conclusion to the themes of justice and retribution? Why or why not?

**Answers to Review Questions:**

**Act I**

**Scene I:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 2:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. Ross's report shows Macbeth as a brave and skilled warrior. Ross talks about how fearless and decisive Macbeth was in battle, which highlights his loyalty and sets up his ambitious nature.
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 3:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. Banquo is skeptical and cautious about the witches' prophecies, questioning their motives and the truth of their words. In contrast, Macbeth is intrigued and quickly becomes consumed by the idea of becoming king. This difference suggests that Banquo is more rational and wary, while Macbeth is more ambitious and easily swayed by the promise of power.
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 4:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. Duncan's contentment with his kingship and his trust in others are evident as he generously praises Macbeth and names Malcolm his heir. This contrasts sharply with Macbeth's growing ambition and internal conflict, as he starts to see Malcolm as an obstacle to his own rise to power. These differences highlight Duncan's naivety and Macbeth's ruthless ambition, setting the stage for the unfolding drama and foreshadowing the inevitable conflict between them.
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 5**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 6:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 7:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. The final exchange between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is crucial as Lady Macbeth's manipulation and questioning of Macbeth's manhood convince him to go through with the murder of King Duncan. This moment solidifies their partnership in crime and sets the stage for the tragic events that follow, as Macbeth's resolve is strengthened, and they commit to their dark plan.

**Act 2**

**Scene I:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 2:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 3:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. Macduff reacts with genuine horror and shock upon discovering Duncan's murder, emphasizing his loyalty and deep sense of justice. Lennox, on the other hand, is more focused on the chaotic events and the unnatural occurrences of the night, showing his concern for the broader implications. These differing reactions reveal Macduff's emotional and moral integrity, while Lennox's response highlights his analytical nature and concern for order.
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 4:**

1. Ross and the Old Man interpret the strange and unnatural events, such as Duncan's horses eating each other, as signs of fate and the disruption of natural order. They believe these omens indicate that something profoundly wrong has occurred, revealing their belief that fate and cosmic forces are at play in the recent events, suggesting that the murder of Duncan has upset the balance of the world.
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. Macduff's decision not to attend Macbeth's coronation reveals his growing suspicion and distrust of Macbeth. This choice shows Macduff's integrity and independence, as he quietly distances himself from what he perceives as an illegitimate rise to power, hinting at his potential opposition to Macbeth in the future.

**Act 3**

**Scene I:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 2:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 3:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. Fleance's escape from the murderers is a big moment because it means that the witches' prediction about Banquo's children becoming kings could still come true. This makes Macbeth feel less safe and more worried, pushing him to do worse things to try to stay in control. Fleance getting away shows that Macbeth can't change his fate, hinting that he will eventually lose power and Banquo's family will rise.

**Scene 4:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 5**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 6:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Act 4**

**Scene I:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 2:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 3:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary
3. \*Answers will vary
4. \*Answers will vary

**Act 5**

**Scene I:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 2:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 3:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 4:**

1. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 5**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 6:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 7:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary

**Scene 8:**

1. \*Answers will vary
2. \*Answers will vary