**Macbeth Study Guide**

**Characters:**

* Malcolm
* Macduff
* Fleance
* Hecate
* Young Siward
* Banquo
* Duncan
* The Weird Sisters
* Macbeth
* Lady Macbeth

**Events and etc.:**

What events transpire in Act I?

Who is with Macbeth when he first meets the witches?

What are Macbeth’s thoughts about the witches’ prophecy?

Why is King Duncan grateful to Macbeth in Act I?

What does Lady Macbeth realize when she reads the letter from Macbeth?

What Lady Macbeth’s plans are and how does she convince Macbeth?

How does Macbeth react to Lady Macbeth’s plans?

Who discovers Duncan’s body?

What does Macbeth experience before he kills Duncan?

How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth view their “bloody hands” differently?

Who misses Macbeth’s coronation?

Why do Duncan’s sons look guilty?

What events transpire in Act III?

In the beginning of Act III, who is suspicious of Macbeth?

What does Macbeth tell Lady Macbeth he will do about Banquo?

How does Macbeth convince the murderers to kill Banquo?

How do the murderers fail at their jobs? (identify a specific line)

What is the turning point in the play for Macbeth?

What are the witches doing when Act IV opens?

What messages do the four apparitions deliver?

Why is Lady Macduff upset with her husband?

What news shakes Macbeth’s confidence?

How does Malcolm test Macduff’s loyalty?

Who most wants to kill Macbeth?

What is on Lady Macbeth’s hand?

Why does Lady Macbeth commit suicide?

What is Macduff holding when he declares Macbeth’s death?

What purpose does the Doctor serve (in Act V)?

What does darkness symbolize throughout the play?

Who ends up being King of Scotland?

What was Macbeth’s tragic flaw?

**Apply literary elements:**

* paradox
* personification
* chiasmus (Honors only)
* anaphora (Honors only)
* metonymy (Honors only)

**Identify the speaker and significance of each quote:**

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair…”

“This castle hath a pleasant seat…”

“Had he not resembled my father as he slept I had done’t.”

“By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes…”

“Out, damned spot! Out, I say!”

“I fear, though, play’dst most cruelly for’t.”

“…it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing…”

“Screw your courage to the sticking-place, and we’ll not fail.”

“Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand?”

“Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.”

“I’ll go no more I am afraid to think what I have done, look on’t again I dare not.”

“O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!”

“Yet do I fear thy nature is too full…of human kindness to catch the nearest way.”

**Short Answer:**

How are the prophecies proclaimed by the apparitions fulfilled?

What brings a resolution to the play and which characteristic of tragedy is this?

What does the audience learn about ambition?

Three short answer questions pertain to three of the quotes from above.