

## EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - *MACBETH*

### Interpretation

1. From what point of view is *Macbeth* written? How does that affect our perception of the play?
2. What is the setting of *Macbeth*?
3. Where is the climax of the play? Explain your choice.
4. How much time passes during the play?
5. Think of a different title for the play. Explain your choice.
6. What are the main conflicts in the play, and how are they resolved?

### Critical

7. Explain the role of witches, ghosts, and visions in *Macbeth*.
8. What things motivate Macbeth?
9. Would Macbeth have killed Duncan if the witches had not predicted he would become king -- or was it truly his fate with or without the witches?
10. Evaluate William Shakespeare's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the play?
11. Compare and contrast Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.
12. At what point in the play is Macbeth's downfall inevitable?
13. Discuss the element of time in the play.
14. The themes/ideas of sleep and dreams recur in the play. Why?
15. Notice the light/dark imagery throughout the play. What kinds of things happen in the light? (3 examples) What kinds of things happen in the dark/storms? (3 examples)
16. In this play, the themes of nobility, bravery, honor and truth contrast sharply with the evil doings of the witches, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Give at least five examples of Shakespeare's use of the aforementioned themes.

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17. Are the characters in *Macbeth* stereotypes? If so, explain why William Shakespeare used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.
18. Discuss Shakespeare's use of bells and alarms in *Macbeth*.
19. Explain the role of each: Duncan, Banquo, Malcolm, Macduff.
20. What is the use of the whole Birnam Wood episode?

Critical/Personal Response

21. Which minor character is the most important to the play? (Banquo, Macduff, Fleance, the witches, or Malcolm)
22. Did Macbeth have any redeeming qualities?
23. Would Macbeth have killed Duncan without Lady Macbeth's nagging?
24. Do you think the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is realistic? Explain why or why not.
25. Who is responsible for Duncan's death?
26. Who is responsible for Macbeth's death?
27. Was Lady Macbeth an evil person?

Personal Response

28. Did you enjoy reading *Macbeth*? Why or why not?
29. What would you have done if you were Macbeth?
30. Suppose Banquo had lived. How would that have affected the story?