

MACBETH ACT I QUESTIONS
BRITISH LIT
MRS. PILGREEN

Name _____

Date _____ Hour _____

CHECK YOUR COMPREHENSION

1. What do we learn about Macbeth's battlefield deeds and the activities of the Thane of Cawdor?
 - a. Macbeth's deeds:
 - b. Thane of Cawdor's deeds:
2. What reward does Macbeth receive from the king?
3. What do the three witches predict for Macbeth and Banquo?
 - a. Macbeth:
 - b. Banquo:
4. How does Lady Macbeth first learn of the witches' predictions?
5. What personality trait in Macbeth does Lady Macbeth fear will hold him back from gaining the crown quickly?
6. What action does Lady Macbeth plan to take during the king's visit?
7. How does Lady Macbeth intend to carry out her plan? (List 3 details.)

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Both the witches and Macbeth make statements about "foul and fair."
 - a. What is one possible meanings for the witches' words?
 - b. What does Macbeth mean by his remark?

2. Compare and contrast Banquo's and Macbeth's reactions to the witches:
 - a. Compare:
 - b. Contrast:
3. Why is Macbeth indecisive about killing the king?
4. How does Lady Macbeth's understanding of her husband's character help her to convince him that the murder plot should be carried out?
5. How should Macbeth have answered Lady Macbeth when, speaking of the planned murder, she said, "What beast was't then / That made you break this enterprise to me?"
6. Identify someone in history who is similar to a character in Macbeth. Explain your choice.

LITERARY FOCUS: ELIZABETHAN DRAMA

1. According to King Duncan and Banquo's descriptions of Macbeth's castle, how would the set for Macbeth's castle look?
2. What "lighting effects" do the witches' words in I. i. 10-11 suggest?
3. What important background information do you learn from the speech in I. ii. 48-58?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Choose the letter of the word that is the **antonym** of the first word.

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|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. valor | a. courage | b. bravery | c. cowardice |
| 2. treason | a. loyalty | b. betrayal | c. treachery |
| 3. imperial | a. royal | b. submissive | c. powerful |
| 4. liege | a. authority | b. king | c. peasant |
| 5. sovereign | a. insignificant | b. supreme | c. solid |