

Macbeth - Study Questions - Act 4-- Use these as a study guide source!

Act 4, scene 1

1. Line 19 reads, "Like a hell-broth, boil and bubble." What does this line imply about Hecate's spell?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In line 45, Hecate says that "something wicked this way comes." The "something wicked" whom she is most likely referring to is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The first apparition that Macbeth sees is an \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The first apparition tells Macbeth that he must beware \_\_\_\_\_, the Thane of Fife.
5. What is Macbeth's reaction to what the first apparition tells him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The second apparition that Macbeth sees is a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The second apparition tells Macbeth that he should be bloody, bold and resolute because he has no need to fear the "pow'r of man," for "none of \_\_\_\_\_ shall harm Macbeth."
8. What is Macbeth's reaction to the second apparition's prophecy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The third apparition that Macbeth sees is a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The third apparition tells Macbeth not to worry about anything or anyone until \_\_\_\_\_ comes to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. What is Macbeth's reaction to the third apparition's prophecy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is Macbeth's question in lines 102-103?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What image is Macbeth shown in response to this image?  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. What is Macbeth's response to seeing this image?  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What does line 138 show that Macbeth realizes a bit too late?  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Where do we learn that Macduff has gone? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Based on lines 150-153, what does Macbeth plan to do? \_\_\_\_\_

## Act 4, scene 2

18. What happens to Macduff's family? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Who caused this to happen? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Look back to the first apparition and its prophecy. Based on that and where Macduff is right now, why do you think Macbeth caused this to happen to Macduff's family?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Act 4, scene 3

The first part of this scene shows a conversation between Malcolm and Macduff. Malcolm isn't sure whether he can trust Macduff's claim that he is loyal to Malcolm because Macbeth has not apparently hurt Macduff in any way. Macduff was also willing to leave his wife and children behind. Malcolm thinks, therefore, that he must test Macduff's loyalty to him. Malcolm tests Macduff by telling him some terrible (though untrue) things about himself. Malcolm bases his decision to trust Macduff on the responses he receives from Macduff. It isn't until much later in the scene that Ross appears to give Macduff the bad news about his entire family.

21. What is Malcolm really saying when he says the following:  
...I am young, but something  
You may discern of him through me, and wisdom  
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb  
T'appease an angry god (4.3.14-17).
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. What does Macduff want Malcolm to understand when he says, "I am not treacherous." (4.3.18)
- \_\_\_\_\_
23. Restate the idea in the following line in your own words.  
...But for all this,  
When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head,  
Or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country  
Shall have more vices than it had before,  
More suffer, and more sundry ways than ever,  
By him that shall succeed (4.3.44-49).
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
24. What does Malcolm mean when he says, "...black Macbeth / Will seem as pure as snow..." (4.1.51-52).
- \_\_\_\_\_
25. Explain Macduff's response in your own words. (4.1.55-57)
- \_\_\_\_\_
26. In general, the three things that Malcolm says he will do if he becomes king are:  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_
27. Up until letter C above, Macduff has said that Scotland could handle Malcolm's vices. After C above, however, Malcolm asks Macduff if he thinks he is fit to govern. Read lines 101-104, and explain the basic idea of what Macduff says in your own words.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

28. At this point, Malcolm reassures Macduff that he trusts Macduff because of his responses. He also assures Macduff that all the terrible things he has said about himself are a lie. In lines 131-132, Malcolm states what kind of a person he truly is. What kind of a person is he?

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29. What do Malcolm and Macduff plan to do at the end of the Act?

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