*The Tragedy of Macbeth*

Act I - Reading Guide

1. In Scene 2, King Duncan learns that one of his loyal thanes, Macbeth, has defeated two rebels (lines 9-23 and 53-58). Who are the traitors? What happens to each?
2. In Scene 3, after greeting Macbeth as Thane of Glamis, what two prophecies do the witches make (lines 49-50)? Write the lines that contain the prophecies.
3. What three statements do the witches make to Banquo in Scene 3 (lines 65-68)? Write the lines that contain the prophecies.
4. Upon learning that the witches first prophecy is fulfilled, Macbeth contemplates the other. What feelings does he have at this point about the idea of murdering Duncan (lines 135-137)?
5. Throughout the rest of Act I, Macbeth struggles with the question of whether or not he should murder Duncan. **Read each set of lines listed below**. If the lines indicate that Macbeth will go through with the murder, write *Yes* on your paper. If the lines indicate that Macbeth will not murder Duncan, write *No*. **Explain your answer**.

a. Scene 3, lines 143-144\_\_\_\_\_ d. Scene 7, lines 7-10\_\_\_\_\_

b. Scene 4, lines 48-53\_\_\_\_\_ e. Scene 7, lines 12-28\_\_\_\_\_

c. Scene 7, lines 1-7\_\_\_\_\_ f. Scene 7, lines 31-35 \_\_\_\_\_

1. In Scene 5, lines 15-19, what fears does Lady Macbeth express about Macbeth’s character? Write the line or lines that express this fear and explain in modern language what Lady Macbeth means.
2. Macbeth complains that he has “no spur to prick the side of (his) intent.” Lady Macbeth acts as that spur, proposing what plan (Scene 7, lines 61-77)? What argument does she use to justify this plan?
3. What is Macbeth’s final decision about murdering Duncan (Scene 7, lines 79-80)? Write the line that reveals his final decision.
4. Explain the following quote as it relates to the plot and Macbeth’s decision so far: “False face must hide what the false heart doth know.”