**Guided Reading Questions**

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Act V (Scenes I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII)

**Directions**

For each question, unless stated otherwise, be sure to provide your answer in a complete sentence with textual evidence (a quotation) to support that answer.

**Resources**

[www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/](http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/)

[www.nfs.sparknotes.com/macbeth/](http://www.nfs.sparknotes.com/macbeth/)

[www.shmoop.com/macbeth/](http://www.shmoop.com/macbeth/)

\*\*\*Act V, Scene I\*\*\*

01.) Although Lady Macbeth’s eyes are open, what does the gentlewoman say to the doctor?

02-03.) Summarize the following text in your own words. Make two valid points to demonstrate understanding (no text evidence required).

**Gentlewoman.** It is an accustomed action with her to seem thus washing

her hands. I have known her continue in this quarter of an hour.

**Lady Macbeth.** Yet here’s a spot.

**Doctor.** Hark, she speaks. I will set down what comes from her,

to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

**Lady Macbeth.** Out, damned spot, out, I say! One. Two. Why then,

‘tis time to do ‘t. Hell is murky. Fie, my lord, fie, a soldier and afeard?

What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to

account? Yet who would have thought the old man to have had

so much blood in him?

**Doctor.** Do you mark that?

**Lady Macbeth.** The Thane of Fife had a wife. Where is she now? What,

will these hands ne’er be clean? No more o’ that, my lord, no more o’

that. You mar all with this starting.

\*\*\*Act V, Scene II\*\*\*

04-06.) Explain the following text in your own words. Make three valid points to demonstrate understating (no text evidence required).

**Caithness.** Who knows if Donalbain be with his brother?

**Lennox.** For certain, sir, he is not. I have a file

Of all the gentry. There is Siward’s son

And many unrough youths that even now

Protest their first of manhood.

**Menteith.** What does the tyrant?

**Caithness.** Great Dunsinane he strongly fortified.

Some say he’s mad; others that lesser hate him

Do call it valiant fury. But for certain

He cannot buckle his distempered cause

Within the belt of rule.

**Angus.** Now does he feel

His secret murders sticking on his hands.

Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach.

Those he commands move only in command,

Nothing in love. Now does he feel his title

Hang loose about him, like a giant’s robe

Upon a dwarfish thief.

07.) Identify the simile in the above text.

\*\*\*Act V, Scene III\*\*\*

08.) How many soldiers are coming to fight with Macbeth’s army?

09.) What is ironic about what Macbeth continually asks for throughout this scene? (no text evidence required)

10.) What news does the doctor bring to Macbeth?

\*\*\*Act V, Scene IV\*\*\*

11-12.) Explain the following text in your own words. Make two valid points to demonstrate understanding (no text evidence necessary).

**Siward.** What wood is this before us?

**Menteith.** The wood of Birnam.

**Malcolm.** Let every soldier hew him down a bough

And bear ‘t before him. Thereby shall we shadow

The numbers of our hose and make discovery

Err in report of us.

**Soldiers.** It shall be done.

13.) Explain the significant of the above text (no text evidence necessary).

\*\*\*Act V, Scene V\*\*\*

14-16.) Explain the following text in your own words. Make three valid points to demonstrate understanding (no text evidence necessary).

**Macbeth.** She should have died hereafter.

There would have been a time for such a word.

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow

Creeps in this petty face from day to day

To the last syllable of recorded time,

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by and idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.

17.) What is the significance of the above text (no text evidence necessary)?

18.) What news does the messenger bring to Macbeth?

\*\*\*Act V, Scene VI\*\*\*

19.) Macduff days “Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath, / Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.” What is a “harbinger” in this context?

\*\*\*Act V, Scene VII\*\*\*

20.) What does the soldier say about Macbeth’s name?

21.) Who does Macbeth kill?

22.) What pledge does Macduff make?

\*\*\*Act V, Scene VIII\*\*\*

23.) How does Macduff resemble the witches’ prophecy?

24.) What does Macduff reenter the scene carrying?

25-26.) Explain the following text in your own words. Make two valid points to demonstrate understanding.

**Malcolm.** We shall not spend a large expense of time

Before we reckon with your several loves

And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,

Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland

In such an honor named. What’s more to do,

Which would be planted newly with the time,

As calling home our exiled friends abroad

That fled the snares of watchful tyranny,

Producing forth the cruel ministers

Of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen

(Who, as ‘tis thought, by self and violent hands,

Took off her life)—this, and what needful else

That calls upon us, by the grace of grace,

We will perform in measure, time, and place.

So thanks to all at once and to each one,

Whom we invite to see us crowned at Scote.