Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Macbeth**

**(PBS version)**

**Viewing Comprehension Questions**

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Video available at: <http://video.pbs.org/video/1604122998/>

**DIRECTIONS:** As you watch the PBS version of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, respond to the following questions onto your own sheet of paper. *Please DO NOT write your answers on this sheet! It will be returned to you to put your responses onto paper!*

**Act 3 (starts at 1:00:00)**

1. Which character is suspicious of Macbeth as the new king of Scotland?
2. What does Macbeth want Malcolm and Donalbain to confess to?
3. In Macbeth’s monologue, what does he want to be “safely thus”? Specifically, why does Macbeth fear Banquo and Banquo’s son, Fleance?
4. What does Macbeth mean when he talks about a “fruitless crown”?
5. Why does Macbeth steadily get angrier and angrier with Banquo the more he thinks about what he’s done to become king?
6. When Macbeth meets with the men in his kitchen, what does he claim that Banquo has done to them in the past?
7. Why can’t Macbeth use his power as king to kill Banquo, his enemy?
8. Who are these men that Macbeth meet with? What is their purpose?
9. Translate Lady Macbeth’s statement: “Our desire is safely got without content.”
10. With Macbeth’s mind being “full of scorpions,” is this an example of Macbeth’s internal or external conflict?
11. Who is killed by the murderers on the train?
12. Who has escaped?

*\*\*NOTE: The man arising represents Banquo’s ghost.*

1. Briefly explain what happens to one of the murderers. Why do you think Macbeth has done this?
2. How does Macbeth react to the news that Fleance has escaped?
3. Who suddenly appears to Macbeth during dinner?
4. At Macbeth’s outbursts, what excuses does Lady Macbeth make to the guests?
5. Who isn’t present at the dinner, which causes Macbeth to worry?
6. Who does Macbeth plan to meet with the next day? Why?
7. Which character is being questioned by the officer in the room? About what?
8. What information has the officer found out about Macduff?

*\*\*If you use the summary, you MUST annotate (highlight/underline and number) where you found your answer.*

Act 3 Summary:

Banquo thinks about Macbeth becoming king and the prophecies of the witches. The witches foretold that Macbeth would be king and that Banquo’s line would eventually sit on the throne. If the first prophecy came

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask Banquo to attend the dinner they will host that night. Banquo accepts their invitation and says that he plans to go for a ride on his horse for the afternoon. Macbeth mentions that they should discuss the problem of Malcolm and Donalbain. The brothers have fled from Scotland and may be plotting against his crown.

At the dinner, the first murderer tells Macbeth that Banquo is dead and that Fleance has escaped. Macbeth is angry, but has to go back to the dinner he’s hosting. When he returns, he sees Banquo’s ghost sitting his chair. He freaks out and begins talking to the ghost, who only he can see. Lady Macbeth makes excuses for her husband and tries to get him to calm down. He doesn’t—especially after Banquo’s ghosts appears again! Lady Macbeth makes everyone leave. She questions Macbeth’s manhood and sanity.

Macbeth says that “blood will have blood” and tells Lady Macbeth that he has heard from a servant-spy that Macduff intends to keep away from court, behavior that verges on treason (a crime). He says that he will visit the witches again tomorrow in the hopes of learning more about the future and about who may be plotting against him. He resolves to do whatever is necessary to keep his throne.

The witches meet with Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft. Hecate is mad at them for messing in Macbeth’s business without talking to her first. But, she still wants to be a part of the plan, and tells the witches to show Macbeth visions that will give him a false sense of confidence.

Lennox walks with another lord, discussing what has happened to Scotland. Banquo’s murder has been officially blamed on Fleance (his son), who has left Scotland. Both men suspect Macbeth, whom they call a “tyrant,” because of the murders of Duncan and Banquo. Macduff has gone to England to meet up with Malcolm who is asking for the king of England’s help (his army) to win back his throne. News of these plots has prompted Macbeth to prepare for war.

Courtesy of: <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/section5.rhtml>