

Act II

1. What is Macbeth's line to Banquo about the witches' after Banquo said he dreamt of them? Why is Macbeth's response significant?
2. What is the signal Lady Macbeth is to give Macbeth to let him know that she has taken care of the guards (grooms) ?
3. What excuse does Lady Macbeth give for not killing Duncan herself?
4. After Macbeth kills Duncan , he goes to Lady Macbeth and is concerned about not being able to say "Amen." What is her advice to him? What does this say about her character?
5. Then, Macbeth is worried about hearing a voice saying, "Macbeth does murder sleep." What does this tell us about Macbeth? What does Lady Macbeth tell him to do?
6. Why won't Macbeth take the daggers back to the scene of the crime?
7. Who was knocking?
8. What things does drinking provoke? What is the purpose of the porter's lines?
9. How does Lennox describe the night, and what is Macbeth's response?
10. What does Macduff discover?
11. Macduff says, "Oh, gentle lady, 'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak. The repetition in a woman's ear, Would murder as it fell." What is ironic about this?
12. What excuse or explanation does Macbeth give for killing the guards (grooms)? What is his real reason?
13. Why do Malcolm and Donalbain leave?
14. Why doesn't Ross believe Malcolm and Donalbain were responsible for Duncan's death?

Act III

1. Why does Macbeth want Banquo and Fleance dead? What does this tell us about Macbeth?
2. What is Macbeth's plan for killing Banquo and Fleance? Does it work?
3. Macbeth says, "The worm that's fled Hath nature that in time will venom breed, No teeth for the present." What does that mean?
4. Who (what) did Macbeth see at the banquet table? What does this tell us about him?
5. How does Lady Macbeth cover for Macbeth at the banquet? What excuses does she give for Macbeth's wild talk?
6. Who else is missing from the banquet table, besides Banquo?
7. Macbeth says, "I am in blood Stepped in so far that should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er." What does he mean?
8. What does Lennox think about Macbeth, Fleance, and Duncan's sons? How does this contribute to the doubling motif?

For both Acts II & III:

Find examples of the "natural vs. unnatural" motif and list them here. What do they emphasize?

Find examples of the "doubling" motif and list them here. What do they emphasize?

Find examples of the "sleep" motif and list them here. What do they emphasize?