

English 9
Act I SQs

1.1

a. Describe the mood (emotional atmosphere of the text) of this scene. Find support for your idea in the setting and in the diction of the speeches.

1.2

b. Examine the Captain's speech (ll. 9-25). Summarize the content of the speech and make inferences about its tone (speaker's attitude toward the subject).

c. What is the result of the conversation between Ross and King Duncan (ll. 50-78)?

1.3

d. What is the First Witch up to in her Master o' th' *Tiger* mischief? What do you think is the relevance of this scene to the larger play?

e. Compare and contrast the reactions of Banquo and Macbeth to the prophecies of the Witches.

f. What is the role of dramatic irony in scene 1.3?

g. Analyze Macbeth's speech ll. 140-155.

1.4

a. "There's no art/To find the mind's construction in the face" (1.4.13-14). Explain the passage and its relevance to the larger text.

1.5

b. Analyze Lady Macbeth's immediate response to the letter from her husband. What does she want to do? What does she fear?

c. Analyze Lady Macbeth's soliloquy, ll. 45–61. Consider her use of the poetic device apostrophe, her overall imagery, and the consequent tone of the speech.

d. When Macbeth returns to Inverness, what advice does Lady Macbeth give him? Examine her imagery along with the content.

1.6

e. Consider the dramatic irony in play with the arrival of King Duncan. What is the role of that dramatic irony in the overall emotional effect of the scene?

f. Track bird imagery. Here we have the martlet (l. 5) and Lady Macbeth has previously invoked the raven (1.5.45). Any thoughts about bird imagery in the play? Keep tracking this pattern as you read.

1.7

g. Look closely at Macbeth's soliloquy in 1.7. Divide it into gestures (groups of lines that together carry out a purpose) and make a reasonable summary of Macbeth's message.

h. Earlier, Lady Macbeth has had a lot to say about women and murder. Now Macbeth is also talking about what manhood is. Compare and contrast their views.

i. Lady Macbeth talks to Macbeth about the plan to murder Duncan. Briefly summarize the plan.

j. The theme of appearance and reality has emerged with Lady Macbeth's advice to Macbeth about how he should act (1.5). How has that theme developed throughout this reading? Give good examples to support your ideas.