

## English 9

### Activities to accompany *Macbeth*

As we read through *Macbeth*, you will

- annotate your book,
- log what questions you have,
- journal reflectively,
- make basic notes for yourself about my study questions, and
- keep track of your assigned word.

### ***Book annotation***

Underline, mark, and flag important actions, so that you can find them easily and keep track of sequence

Mark answers to study questions

Flag important devices you know to look for (e.g., dramatic irony)

Mark patterns you are beginning to detect (e.g., bird imagery)

React so that you remember the emotional impact of certain scenes

Write down your questions

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### Your notebook, act by act

For each act, you should have a section in your notebook (may be a physical notebook that you scan and upload to Jupiter as a pdf; may be a document on your computer that you add to as you go).

### ***Questions***

There will be some obscure language in the text, or there may be moments where you aren't sure what's going on...Go ahead and write down your questions in your notebook for us to discuss on our weekly call.

### ***Reflective journal***

For each act, answer 5 questions with at least 4 sentences in each answer. Anchor your answer in the text by blending short quotations and citing as indicated:

We know Banquo continues to think of the witches prophecy when he says he has

“dreamt last night of the three Weird Sisters” (2.1.25).

If the writing is verse, indicate a line break with a slash: /

Good journals show illustrative, abundant, and thoughtful reflection that clearly relates the content of the play to the writer's ideas, experiences (including reading experiences), and/or feelings.

See the attached document for the questions themselves.

### ***Study questions***

Make basic notes for yourself to keep up with my study questions. If you can't answer one, ask in the Zoom call. Have a clear idea about what you want to make sure we talk about in our very limited class time.

See the attached document for the questions themselves.

### ***Word journal***

Keep track of your assigned word and its synonyms.

Note the speaker, citation, passage, and give a paraphrase including the context.

Include not only the word itself but other related words. For example, when you write about "death" you should also include synonyms, such as the word "fatal." Over time, you will see how patterns develop.

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>	<u>Group 3</u>	<u>Group 4</u>
<b>blood</b>	<b>hand</b>	<b>night</b>	<b>sleep</b>
Yahfyah	Elise	Becky	Cristina
Allison	Isha	Molly	Franchi
Grace	Portia	Abigail	Lilly
Nadia	Benedetta	Isis	Gabby
Izzy	Anna	Lucia	Ruthie

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### Reflective Journal for Act I

1. Describe something in your own life that is at once "foul" and "fair."
2. What is the most unbelievable, shocking, or unexpected aspect of Act 1? Explain your reaction.
3. Do you believe in Fate or Free Will? How do you think his own beliefs will affect Macbeth as the play continues?
4. Does any of the characters remind you of someone you know. Explain the similarities in a respectful, thoughtful way.
5. What do you think is the most impactful or important passage in the reading. Explain.
6. Describe a time when you had to make a difficult decision. What was the role of peer pressure in that decision? Relate your story to the situation of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.
7. What advice would you give Macbeth? Why?
8. What predictions do you have for the next act?

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### Study Questions for Act I

1.1

1. What are the witches planning in this first scene? What does the reader learn about the witches in 1.1?

2. Begin tracing all variations on the reference to “fair is foul” beginning with this scene.
3. Pay attention to rhyme scheme in this scene. What does style add to the overall emotional effect of the scene?

#### 1.2

1. What characters are we introduced to in this scene, either in person or by hearsay? Describe each.
2. Summarize the Captain’s story. Who are Macbeth and Macdonwald? What has Macbeth accomplished that warrants the praise and gratitude of Duncan? What is the role of Fortune? Begin tracing references to fate, starting with this scene.
3. What do we learn about honor and dishonor in this scene?
4. How does Duncan reward Macbeth?
5. Look at meter, rhythm, and rhyme in this scene. What does it add?

#### 1.3

1. The First Witch has a plan for a seaman. What is the plan? How is this seaman like Macbeth in relation to the witches? What does the story tell us about the witches’ plans and abilities?
2. How does Banquo describe the witches?
3. How do the witches greet Macbeth? What inferences do you draw?
4. Banquo notes that Macbeth seems afraid to hear the witches’ greeting. Why do you think this is? How does Banquo’s response differ from Macbeth’s?
5. How is the witches’ greeting for Banquo different from their greeting for Macbeth?
6. What do Banquo and Macbeth think of the witches’s words? Do you find them believable? Are the witches prophesying? Or are they doing something else? Give evidence.
7. On learning that he is Thane of Cawdor, Macbeth says that he is now dressed “in borrowed robes” (1.3.115). Trace the clothing metaphors throughout the text, beginning here.
8. What is Banquo’s theory about the witches and other “instruments of darkness” (136)?
9. What is “the suggestion” that so frightens Macbeth (1.3.147)?
10. Trace the progression of Macbeth’s asides. What thoughts does he entertain? What conclusions does he come to?

#### 1.4

1. How does King Duncan greet Macbeth and Banquo? In what ways does his greeting differ for each? How do their responses differ?
2. What metaphors does King Duncan employ in his speeches? Trace references to stars and harvests?
3. How does Macbeth respond to King Duncan’s decision to name Malcolm as his heir? What conclusion do you think he reaches at this point? What imagery does he use to describe his thoughts?

#### 1.5

1. What do we learn about Macbeth’s relationship to Lady Macbeth from the letter he writes her?
2. How does Lady Macbeth react to the witches’ prophecy? What does she think might get in the way of its fulfillment? What traits does she see in her husband, and which ones does she consider to be positive or negative?

3. How does Lady Macbeth prepare herself for the coming of the King? Compare and contrast her speeches with those of Macbeth. Do they share any common elements in speech pattern or symbol?
4. The first face-to-face encounter between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is marked by her manner and advice. What are they? What stands out in the way she treats him and in what she says, compared to how she addresses others? What conclusions do you draw? What about his response to her? While they never discuss a possible murder, they seem to be on the same wavelength. Why? Do you think they have considered this possibility before. Give evidence from the text to support your inference.

#### 1.6

1. What do King Duncan and Banquo observe about Inverness?
2. With what demeanor does King Duncan approach Lady Macbeth? How does she respond? Is she being honest?

#### 1.7

1. Trace Macbeth's train of thought in his first soliloquy (1.7.1-28). Notice his spiritual sensitivity and acute awareness of the consequences of his action. Has his mindset changed or remained the same since his asides in 1.3 and 1.4? What motivation does he have for murder? Why should he not murder the King? Note that he never names the deed; why do you think this is? Does Lady Macbeth interrupt his thought—or continue it?
2. How does Lady Macbeth respond to Macbeth's decision to "proceed no further in this business" (1.7.34)? Of what flaws does she accuse him?
3. How does Lady Macbeth define manhood and honor? Is this consistent with what we have heard from the rest of the characters? How does Macbeth define manhood?
4. How does Lady Macbeth convince her husband to do the deed? Which points of her argument seem most compelling to him? Describe the plan she lays out for the murder. Is this a good plan? Pay attention to see if they adhere to the original plan.