

***Reflective journal***

For each act, answer 3 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.

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?

Act II

1. Have you ever had trouble sleeping because something was on your mind? Explain.
2. What is the most unbelievable, shocking, or unexpected part of what you read? Explain your reaction.
3. Do any of the characters in the act remind you of someone you know? Explain the similarities.
4. What do you think is the most important or impactful quotation from the reading? Why?
5. Have you ever felt guilty about something you have done? Can you relate to Macbeth’s mental and emotional state in Act 2?
6. What advice would you give Macbeth? Why?
7. What do you predict will happen in the next act?
8. What roles do you think Macduff, Banquo, Malcolm, and Donalbain will serve as the play progresses? With which one of these characters do you best identify?

### Act III

1. What connections can you make between what you read and your own life (characters, situations, etc.)?
2. What is the most unbelievable, shocking, or unexpected part of what you read? Explain your reaction.
3. Do any of the characters in the act remind you of someone you know? Explain the similarities.
4. Why does Macbeth fear Banquo? Have you ever been intimidated by someone whom you felt was a worthy opponent?
5. Have you ever put on a “false face” to hide your true feelings (1.7.95)? Explain, anchoring your answer in Act 3.
6. What do you think is the most important or impactful quotation from the reading? Why?
7. What is your opinion of Macbeth in this act?
8. What advice would you give Macduff? Why? Do you agree with his “treason” (3.4.159-160)?
9. What do you predict will happen in the next act?

### Act IV

1. Have you ever felt betrayed, as Lady Macduff does? Are her feelings justified?
2. What is the most unbelievable, shocking, or unexpected part of what you read? Explain your reaction.
3. Describe a time when you mistrusted someone. Did the truth eventually surface? What was the outcome?
4. Do any of the characters in the act remind you of someone you know? Explain the similarities.
5. What do you think is the most important or impactful quotation from the reading? Why?
6. Connect the reading to what you’ve previously learned in your studies of history. Are rebel forces or usurpers ever justified in their cause? Cite a real-world example.
7. What advice would you give Malcolm and Macduff? Why?
8. Considering what you know about tragedy, what do you predict will happen in the next act?

### Act V

1. Consider the expression, “The guilty conscience needs no accuser.” Are you surprised by Lady Macbeth’s behavior in this act, in contrast to her previous behavior as we saw it in Act 1?
2. What do you think is the most important or impactful quotation from the reading? Why?
3. In Macbeth’s famous soliloquy following his wife’s death, he remarks that life is transient and meaningless. Do you agree or disagree with his sentiments? Why or why not?
4. What is the most unbelievable, shocking, or unexpected part of what you read? Explain your reaction.
5. Do you experience your own catharsis in response to the events of Act 5? Do you consider Macbeth to be a tragic hero? Why or why not?
6. What advice would you give Malcolm as he takes the throne?