

# Act Three

Scene 1

- **BANQUO**

- Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
- As the weird women promised, and I fear
- Thou played'st most foully for 't. Yet it was said
- It should not stand in thy posterity,
- But that myself should be the root and father
- Of many kings. If there come truth from them—
- As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine—
- Why, by the verities on thee made good,
- May they not be my oracles as well,
- And set me up in hope? But hush, no more

At this point – Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth. He thinks he has got everything by playing dirty.

Imagine you are Banquo – write a diary entry where you relay your fears. Try to include the following words/phrases.

Glamis

King

Father of kings

Duncan

Cawdor

Witches

Committed

Foully

## MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.

## LADY MACBETH

If he had been forgotten,  
It had been as a gap in our great feast,  
And all-thing unbecoming.

## MACBETH

Tonight we hold a solemn supper, sir,  
And I'll request your presence.

## BANQUO

Let your highness  
Command upon me, to the which my duties  
Are with a most indissoluble tie  
Forever knit.

1. What does Macbeth call Banquo?  
**Why do you think he calls him that?**
2. What word is used to show how Macbeth 'asks' for Banquo to attend the Banquet? **Why do you think he doesn't command it?**
3. How does Banquo treat Macbeth?  
**How is this different to what he said on his own?**

Answer the following question in 50 words.

- Why do you think Banquo doesn't bring up his suspicions with Macbeth?

To be thus is nothing,  
But to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature  
Reigns that which would be feared. 'Tis much he dares,  
And to that dauntless temper of his mind  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear, and under him  
My genius is rebuked, as it is said  
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters  
When first they put the name of king upon me

And bade them speak to him. Then, prophetlike,  
They hailed him father to a line of kings.  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown  
And put a barren scepter in my grip,  
Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered;  
Put rancors in the vessel of my peace  
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel  
Given to the common enemy of man,  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come fate into the list,  
And champion me to th' utterance. Who's there?

## Fill in the missing words

Macbeth thinks that being \_\_\_\_\_ is useless unless he can \_\_\_\_\_ be King. He \_\_\_\_\_ that Banquo knows something about what he did to \_\_\_\_\_. He does not like how Banquo \_\_\_\_\_ the witches to predict his own \_\_\_\_\_. Because Banquo's \_\_\_\_\_ are going to be King, Macbeth feels that they placed a \_\_\_\_\_ crown on his head and a \_\_\_\_\_ scepter in his hand. This means that Macbeth knows that no \_\_\_\_\_ of his will take over the throne from him. At the end of the scene, Macbeth is seen sending two \_\_\_\_\_ to kill Banquo and his son \_\_\_\_\_.

# Words to use if needed

Safely

Asked

Fleance

Future

Suspects

Fruitless

Murderers

Barren

King

Duncan

Sons

Son

# Act Three

Scene 2

Look at the following quotations and respond to the prompts

- “We have scorched the snake, not killed it”
  - What does he tell Lady Macbeth about their time as King and Queen?
  - What would happen if you slashed a snake but didn't kill it? How might it react?

Look at the following quotations and respond to the prompts

- “Be bright and jovial among your guests tonight”
  - How is Lady Macbeth trying to speak here?
  - What does she want Macbeth to do?
  - What other quotation by Lady Macbeth from earlier in the play does this remind you of? (Hint: Flower and snake)

Look at the following quotations and respond to the prompts

- “Oh, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! Thou know’st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.”
  - Why does Macbeth use the scorpions metaphor here? What is he saying about his mind?
  - What is it that is making him feel that way?

Look at the following exchange between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

**LADY MACBETH**

What's to be done?

**MACBETH**

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,

*What is the difference in Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's relationship here and during the early scenes?*

# Scaffold

- In the early scenes Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's relationship is \_\_\_\_\_ because

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- However, in act 3, scene 2 their relationship is now \_\_\_\_\_ because

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# Act Three

Scene 3

# A third murderer arrives

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- When they arrive to do the task – a third murderer has also been sent

Task: Write a summary of what that tells you about Macbeth and why.

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# Act Three

Scene 4

What does this picture tell you about banquets?

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*Approaching the door*

There's blood on thy face.

**First Murderer**

'Tis Banquo's then.

**MACBETH**

'Tis better thee without than he within.

Is he dispatch'd?

**First Murderer**

My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.

**MACBETH**

Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: yet he's good  
That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,  
Thou art the nonpareil.

**First Murderer**

Most royal sir,  
Fleance is 'scaped.

**MACBETH**

Then comes my fit again: I had else been perfect,  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,  
As broad and general as the casing air:  
But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, bound in  
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

**First Murderer**

Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides,  
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;  
The least a death to nature.

**MACBETH**

Thanks for that:

There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled  
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,  
No teeth for the present. Get thee gone: to-morrow  
We'll hear, ourselves, again.

1. What does the use of the verb 'dispatch'd' tell you about Macbeth's attitude to Banquo's death?

2. Why does Macbeth flatter and compliment the murderers in this way?

3. Macbeth calls his fear a 'fit'. Why might this be?

4. Macbeth compares himself to rock here. Do we believe Macbeth would have been satisfied had Fleance been killed?

5. What's ironic about Macbeth calling Fleance a 'serpent'?

# Watch the two versions of the banquet scene

- A. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AalfPfZ7C5s>
- B. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nre482NEosQ>

1. Which one shows Macbeth as the most disturbed and why/how is it presented?
  
2. Which of these versions makes us feel more sympathy for Macbeth's situation and why/how?

# Ghosts

1. Do you believe in ghosts? Explain your reasons
2. When Banquo's ghost visits – do you think it's his actually ghost or do you think it is a figment of Macbeth's imagination? Explain your response.
3. Why do you think Lady Macbeth gets so worried in this scene?

# Act Three

Scene 5

## FIRST WITCH

Why, how now, Hecate! You look angerly.

## HECATE

Have I not reason, beldams as you are?  
Saucy and overbold, how did you dare  
To trade and traffic with Macbeth  
In riddles and affairs of death,

1. All the other witches have been nameless. The fact that Hecate does tells you what about her? Explain why you think this [hint: think importance]
2. What is Hecate feeling and why does she feel this way?

## **HECATE**

And, which is worse, all you have done  
Hath been but for a wayward son,  
Spiteful and wrathful, who, as others do,  
Loves for his own ends, not for you

1. How does Hecate describe Macbeth at this point?
2. What might this suggest about the witches' prophecies at the start? Do you think they meant for Macbeth to kill Duncan?

## **HECATE**

This night I'll spend  
Unto a dismal and a fatal end.  
Great business must be wrought ere noon.

1. What does Hecate predict is going to happen to Macbeth?
2. Why do you think she wants this to happen?

# Act Three

Scene 6

# Lennox

- In this scene – Lennox is feeling mixed emotions about what is happening around him:
- You are going to see a summary of the scene and some questions that follow

# Lennox

- Lennox says that strange things have been happening
  - *What does this tell you about Macbeth's actions*
- He is confused by the fact that Macbeth felt sorry for Duncan even after he had died
  - *Why do you think this would gain suspicion*
- He says that some people think that Fleance killed Banquo
  - *Where else in the play has parricide been an issue? Why do you think this is important?*

# Lennox

- He then goes back to Macbeth killing the servants and how brave he thought that was
- *Why do you think Lennox is keen to praise Macbeth?*