*Macbeth* – Act 2 – Important Concepts

**Act 2, scene 1**

Macbeth vs. Banquo

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| Similarities from the beginning of the play: | Differences we are starting to see: |
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What is the purpose of Banquo’s character?

**Act 2, scene 2**

1. Why does Lady Macbeth not kill Duncan? What does this indicate to us?
2. What is Lady Macbeth’s role in Duncan’s murder?
3. Analyze the following quotations
   1. Put it into your own words – how is each character reacting to what they’ve done
   2. What does this reveal about the character

Methought I heard a voice cry ‘Sleep no more!

Macbeth does murder sleep’—the innocent sleep…

(2.2.35-36)

Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnadine,

Making the green one red (2.2.60-63).

My hands are of your colour, but I shame

To wear a heart so white…

A little water clears us of this deed;

How easy is it, then! (2.2.64-65, 67-68).

**Act 2, scene 3**

1. How does the Porter’s speech demonstrate dramatic irony?
2. What did Macbeth do to the servants he framed for the murder of Duncan? (Hint: look at 2.3.107-108).
3. What does Macbeth mean when he says, “who could refrain, / That had a heart to love, and in that heart / Courage to make ’s love known?” (2.3.117-119)? What is he referring to?
4. What do Malcolm and Donalbain decide to do after the murder of their father? Why do they decide to do this?

**Act 2, scene 4**

1. What does Ross note about the day in 2.4.6-10? What does this indicate to us?
2. Provide two examples of unnatural occurrences in this scene. Why is this significant?
3. Who looks guilty for the murder of Duncan at this point?
4. What has happened to Macbeth?
5. Who does not go to Scone? Why do you think he decides not to go?