*Macbeth* – Act 3 – Important Concepts

**Act 3, scene 1**

1. Quote a line that proves Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth.
2. (3.1.48-72) Why does Macbeth want to kill Banquo? Indicate some key lines in this speech that prove this.
3. The planning of Banquo’s murder:

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| How does Macbeth convince the murderers? (3.1.74-84, 92-108) | Why doesn’t he do it himself? (3.1.116-124) | Who makes the plan and what is it? (3.1.128-139) |
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1. How does this compare to the planning of Duncan’s murder? (How is it similar, but very different at the same time?)

**Act 3, scene 2**

1. Examine the following quotations. Put them into your own words. What does each reveal?

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| Lady Macbeth:  Nought’s had, all’s spent,  Where our desire is got without content:  ‘Tis safer to be that which we destroy  Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy (3.2.4-7) | Macbeth:  Ere we eat our meal in fear, and sleep  In the affliction of these terrible dreams  That shake us nightly. Better be with the dead,  Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,  Than on the torture of the mind to lie  In restless ecstasy (3.2.17-22). |
| Macbeth:  Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;  Present him eminence, both with eye and tongue:  Unsafe the while that we  Must lave our honours in these flattering streams,  And make our faces vizards to our hearts,  Disguising what they are (3.2.30-35). | Macbeth:  Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,  Till thou applaud the deed…  Thou marvell’st at my words; but hold thee still;  Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill;  So, prithee, go with me (3.2.45-46, 54-56). |

1. How is Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s relationship changing?

**Act 3, scene 2**

1. Who does the Third Murderer say he is? Do you think he is actually this person? Why or why not?
2. Why is it significant that Fleance escapes?
3. Why do you think we see this scene when we don’t see the murder of Duncan?

**Act 3, scene 4**

1. Find a quotations that proves Macbeth feels insecure and paranoid, and feels even more so now that he knows Fleance is still alive.
2. Who is witnessing Macbeth’s strange behaviour? What might this indicate to them?
3. How is Lady Macbeth acting while Macbeth sees the ghost?
4. Explain the following quotations in your own words. What themes do they help to develop?

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| Ay, and since too, murders have been perform’d  Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,  That, when the brains were out, a man would die,  And there an end; but now they rise again,  With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,  And push us from our stools: this is more strange  Than such a murder is (3.4.77-83). | Why, so; being gone,  I am a man again (3.2.107-108). |

1. Who is not at the feast (other than Banquo) and why is this significant?
2. Explain the following quotation in your own words. Why is it significant?

I am in blood

Stepp’d in so far, that, should I wade no more,

Returning were as tedious as go o’er.

Strange things I have in head that will to hand,

Which must be acted ere they may be scann’d (3.4.135-139).

**Act 3, scene 5**

1. Hecate is the queen of the witches. There are many theories that this scene was not actually written by Shakespeare. What are some of the differences in this scene and the others involving the witches that might give people this idea?
2. Why is Hecate angry at the witches?
3. What does she plan to show Macbeth?
4. What does she say is “mortals’ chiefest enemy” (3.5.33)? Why is this important for Macbeth?

**Act 3, scene 6**

1. Lennox is speaking ironically to the other lord. How does he really feel about Macbeth?
2. Who is disgraced and why?
3. (3.6.24-44)
   1. Who has gone to England to meet Malcolm? Who is joining forces with them?
   2. What is the state of Scotland at this point in the play? (specifically, what types of things are they deprived of?)
   3. Does Macbeth know this is happening? What is he preparing for?