1. For what reason has Lady Macbeth's gentlewoman called the doctor? (scene i, lines 1-8)
2. When Lady Macbeth enters (sleepwalking), what does she appear to be doing? (lines 23-35)
3. Lady Macbeth talks while sleepwalking. What are three past events she mentions (lines 35, 37, 53-54)
4. In the light of scene i, look back at Act II, scene ii, and reread it. What is <i>ironic</i> about the form Lady Macbeth's madness takes here?
5. Shakespeare uses scene ii to catch us up on how the forces against Macbeth are coming. Who are the three soldiers leading the invading army, now made up of both English and Scottish troops? (lines 1-4)
6. What is happening to Macbeth's troops? (lines 19-20)
7. In the light of Macduff's words at the end of Act II (scene iv, lines 38-39), what does Angus mean by lines V,ii,20-22)?
8. In scene iii, lines 1-10, Macbeth insists on disregarding the advancing armies. Why?
9. What does the doctor say about Lady Macbeth's illness (iii, 36-39)?
10. What does Malcolm order his soldiers to do while they are in Birnam Wood (iv, lines 4-7)
11. Read carefully Macbeth's speech in scene v, lines 9-13. Why does the shrieking he hears not terrify him?
12. What news does Macbeth receive in line 14 ? How does Macbeth react to this news?
13. Read scene v, lines 16-28; this has been called the saddest speech in all of literature. Here Macbeth speaks what he feels about
life.
a. What does he say about our tomorrows?
b. What does he say about our yesterdays?

MACBETH: Act V Reading Guide

	c. Life is a poor actor who does what?
	d. Life is what kind of tale told by whom?
14. What	news does the servant bring Macbeth in lines 33-35 ?
15. What	information does the audience gain in scene vi?
16. In sce	ene vii, lines 1-5, Macbeth compares himself to a baited bear. Read the sidenote carefully and explain
17. Whoi	m does Macbeth kill in battle in scene vii?
	n Macduff and Macbeth meet on the battlefield, it is the answer to Macduff's prayer, but what does Macbeth say about fighting Macduff? (lines 4-6)
19. What	does Macbeth learn about Macduff? (lines 14-16)
20. What	is the outcome of the battle between Macbeth and Macduff?
21. Who	is crowned the new king?

"... She has a light by her continually: 'Tis her command"

a. Who is "she"?

b. What is the *irony* here?

"Out, damed spot! out, I say!.../
Yet who would have
thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?"

c. Who said?

d. What "spot"?

e. Why is the reference to the "spot" ironic?

f. What "old man"?

"Those he commands move only in command, Nothing in love..."

g. Who is "he"?

h. Meaning?

"...Now does he feel his title Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe Upon a dwarfish thief." i. Who's "he"?

j. Explain the metaphor.

k. What's the connection to Macduff's words at the end of Act II?

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased ...?"

1. Who's speaking?

m. 'About whom?

n. Explain.

"Let every soldier hew him down a bough And bear't before him. Thereby shall we shadow The numbers of our host..."

o. Who said?

p. Explain how this is a fulfillment of a prophecy.

"...I have supped full with horrors.

Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,

Cannot once start me."

q. Who said?

r. Meaning?

s. What new horror is about to be added?

"I pull in resolution, and begin To doubt th' equivocation of the fiend That lies like truth:"

t. Who said?

u. Why does the speaker begin to doubt NOW?

v. 'Why not UNTIL now? ('sheep & goats!)

LINE QUIZ: Act V

x. Why does Shakespeare have the speaker say this and various other lines like it thoughout Act V?

"They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly, But bearlike I must fight the course..." y. Who said?

z. Explain the simile.

"Of all men else I have avoided thee. But get thee back! My soul's too much charged With blood of thine already." aa. Who said?

bb. 'To whom?

c. Meaning?

"...Macduff was from his mother's womb Untimely ripped."

cc. Explain the significance of this line.

"Hail, king! for so thou art:..."

dd. Who said?

ee. 'To whom?

ff. Why is it significant that it is HE who makes this pronouncement?

SOME OTHER STUFF:

gg. How, exactly, does Lady Macbeth die?

hh. What is Shakespeare's purpose in having Macbeth verbally abuse his young messanger?

ii. Why does Shakespeare have Macbeth fight YOUNG SIWARD?

jj. Explain why Macbeth's reaction to his wife's death is what it is.

kk. What is Siward's only comfort in the death of his son?

II. Why is it significant that Macduff BEHEADS Macbeth?

mm. Write a PARAPHRASE of the "Tomorrow..." speech.

Scene i

Characters who cannot to sleep fill this play. What does Lady Macbeth's disturbed sleep represent?

Who watches Lady Macbeth while she sleepwalks? 2.

Scene ii

Lines 21-29—Is Macbeth's downfall that of a tragic hero or is he a villain? 3.

Scene iii

Lines 47-56 – In this speech of Macbeth's there are many dashes. What do these dashes tell us about his state of mind?

Lines 61-62 – The doctor says that once he leaves this place no amount of money would bring 5. him back to Macbeth's castle. Why does he feel this way?

Scene iv

How has one of the witches' prophecies come true? 6.

Scene v

- 7. Lines 1-7 What strategy does Macbeth have for defending the castle?
- 8. Paraphrase the "Tomorrow, tomorrow, and tomorrow" speech.

Scene vii

9. lines 14-23 – How does Macduff's motivation contrast with Macbeth's?

scene viii

10. Does Macbeth's determination to fight show bravery?