TEACHER NOTES

ACT ONE NOTES

Act I, Scene 1
1) Three witches gather and say that they’ll meet with Macbeth before sunset and after a terrible battle that has been fought nearby.
2) The three witches are later referred to as “the three weird sisters.”
   • Remember: “Fair is foul and foul is fair.”

Act I, Scene 2
1) The scene is set on a battlefield where Macbeth’s army has been fighting the army of the traitor Macdonwald.
2) The King, Duncan, asks a brave soldier to comment on the course of the battle. This sergeant has proved his valor by fighting to save the King’s son, Malcolm, from capture by the rebel Macdonwald’s forces.
   The Sergeant says that...
   1) The battle was evenly matched — with the “whore” Fortune smiling temporarily on Macdonwald...
   2) until Macbeth “brandished his steel, which smoked with bloody execution.” Macbeth carved his way through Macdonwald’s men until “he came face-to-face with the slave (Macdonwald)...”
   3) ...at which point Macbeth “unseamed him (Macdonwald) from the nave to the chops and stuck his head upon the battlements.”
   • Macdonwald’s men run — “trusting their heels.”
1) The King of Norway fights on the side of Macdonwald. Norway hopes that a successful uprising by the traitor will allow him to capitalize on his support and gain political power in Scotland.
2) At this point, Norway sends his fresh forces onto the field to fight Macbeth and Banquo’s tired and battle-worn men.
3) Duncan asks: “Didn’t this dismay Macbeth (and Macbeth’s co-leader, Banquo)?”
4) The Sergeant replies: “Yes. Like the sparrow dismays the eagle or the rabbit dismays the lion.”
• Macbeth’s men defeat Norway’s army, and then march to Fife, where Norway—here working with the traitor the Thane of Cawdor—has a second force battling the loyal Scottish thane, Ross and his troops.
  • Remember: “Thane” = “Lord” or “Duke”

Macbeth wins there, too.
• The King orders that the traitor Cawdor be executed and that Macbeth be named the new Thane of Cawdor in gratitude for his awesome performance on the battlefield.

Act I, Scene 3
• Macbeth and Banquo ride from the battlefield.
• Macbeth observes: “So foul and fair a day I have not seen.” Where have we heard this before?

• Macbeth and Banquo happen across the three weird sisters, who greet Macbeth:
  1) “Hail Thane of Glamis.”
  2) “Hail Thane of Cawdor.”
  3) “Hail he that shalt be king hereafter.”

• The greeting unnerves Macbeth. He already is Thane of Glamis (that was his father’s title, he inherited it).
• Macbeth knows, though, that he cannot be Thane of Cawdor. “The Thane of Cawdor yet lives...” Macbeth wonders (he knows; he is responsible for Cawdor’s arrest as a traitor on the battlefield).
• “Why do you dress me in borrowed robes?” Macbeth asks.
• Macbeth is even more flabbergasted at the witches’ suggestion that he could ever be king.
• Ross and Lennox arrive, and greet Macbeth as “Thane of Cawdor.” They tell him that Duncan has promoted him in gratitude for his bravery and loyalty, and that Duncan wants to meet with Macbeth and Banquo so he can personally deliver his thanks.
• “Can the devil speak true?” wonders Macbeth.
• Banquo suggests that all of what the witches said must be true.
• Macbeth ponders this, and wonders whether the witches are good, or evil.
• “If their prediction is evil, how could it have been fulfilled... and fulfilled for the good (i.e. “with me replacing the traitorous Cawdor.”)
• “BUT,” he continues, “if what they said was good, why is the last part of their prediction evil (i.e. that Macbeth will have to somehow unseat Duncan and Malcolm and Donalbain)?”
• So: what Macbeth thinks about is whether the witches are foul creatures making fair predictions or fair creatures making foul ones. Where have we heard this before?
• Important: In this scene, Duncan says ...

“There is no art to find the mind’s construction in the face. He (the executed Thane of Cawdor) was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.”

In other words...?

1) Themes Established thus far in Macbeth
2) “Fair vs. Foul”
3) “Borrowed robes”
   — “Why do you dress me in borrowed robes; the Thane of Cawdor yet lives.”
   — “New honors hang on Macbeth like new clothes; they cleave not to their mold but with aid of use.” Banquo says this to Lennox and Ross while Macbeth is lost in thought.
• One cannot read a man’s mind in his face. Our outward appearance does not reveal our inward thoughts/plans.

Act I, Scene 5
• Lady Macbeth reads a letter sent by her husband in which he relates the details of what the witches have predicted and what Duncan has done.
• He tells his wife that he’s invited Duncan to their castle as a guest.
• She begins to formulate her plan to assassinate Duncan.
• Lady Macbeth asks “spirits that tend on mortal thoughts” to unsex her. She continues, saying: “Come to my woman’s breasts and take my milk for gall.”
• She reveals her intentions to her husband. Macbeth dismisses her immediately.
• Lady Macbeth reminds her husband that he is too loyal to the king and that her plan has obviously upset him. “Your face, my thane, is as a book where men may read strange matters.” Where have we heard this before?
• Lady Macbeth also urges her husband to consider treachery as the quick way to become king. Deceit is easy: “Look like the innocent flower,” she says, “But be the serpent under it.”
Lady Macbeth knows that her husband is “too full of the milk of human kindness” to “catch the nearest way” to power.

ACT TWO NOTES

• Act 2, Scene 1
  Banquo tells Macbeth he dreamt of the witches.
  Macbeth’s second soliloquy: “Is this a dagger I see before me, The handle toward my hand?”

• Act 2, Scene 2
  Macbeth murders the King while his guards are drunk asleep.
  Lady Macbeth observes that she would have done the deed herself “If Duncan hadn’t looked so much like [her] father as he slept.” (She has a weakness, but acts “tough”... this is a “borrowed robe” example).
  Macbeth botches the job. He returns to his chamber bloody and with the murder weapons, which he was supposed to plant on the guards.
  Lady Macbeth, after chastising her husband as a “weak-willed creature,” plants the dagger and returns... now just as bloody as her husband.
  Remember: 1. “Macbeth has murdered sleep.” 2. “Can all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood from off my hand?”

Act 2, Scene 3

• In most of his tragedies, Shakespeare balances scenes of intense drama or action with lighter scenes – which often contain crude, offensive humor. Macbeth is no different. Act 2, scene 3 immediately follows Duncan’s murder and Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s unexpected (?) admission that they feel guilt. This scene is commonly called the “porter” scene.
  The persistent knocking of Macduff and Lennox (two of Duncan’s very loyal thanes) wakens the castle’s porter, who shuffles toward the gate — still a little drunk from the night before — to admit the knocker.
  Why does the porter take so long to open the gate?
  Macduff and Lennox have come to meet Duncan and leave with him from Inverness (the castle). Macbeth — who has “just awakened” — tells Macduff to go ahead and get Duncan. Macduff, of course, comes back screaming the news that the King’s been murdered.
  Macbeth acknowledges that he killed the King’s obviously guilty guards — he says he could not restrain his anger at their treachery.
• Macduff tells Lady Macbeth that the details of murder scene are so terrible that “the reciting of [them] in a woman’s ear would kill her as she heard [them].” Macolm and Donalbain — the King’s sons — agree to leave Scotland.

**Act 2, Scene 4**
• Outside Macbeth’s castle, an Old Man and Ross (another thane loyal to Duncan) talk of the strange occurrences of the night before. “The heavens [were] troubled by men’s sins, punishing this bloody world.” Besides the night’s storminess, the two also observed that the sun was dark — “snuffed out by the darkness of night” — and that Duncan’s beautiful and well-bred horses killed each other and became cannibals.
• Macduff and Ross seem to agree that Malcolm and Donalbain’s quick departure from Scotland makes them look guilty.
• Macbeth, says Ross, is in Scone for his coronation. Macduff makes it clear that he has no intention of attending.

**ACT THREE NOTES**

**Act 3, Scene 1**
• Macbeth invites Banquo to be the guest of honor at a feast. Banquo says he will attend — he has been ordered to, after all, but that he’ll be a few minutes late. He wants to go riding with his son, Fleance.
• Macbeth’s 3rd soliloquy:
  “To be king is nothing but to be safely king...My immortal soul I have given to the devil to make the children of Banquo kings!”
• By convincing them that Banquo is the cause of their misfortunes, Macbeth persuades two seedy characters to assassinate Banquo and Fleance in the evening as they return to the castle for the feast.

**Act 3, Scene 2**
• Like her husband does, Lady Macbeth says (to herself) that “We gain nothing and sacrifice everything when we get what we want without achieving happiness.”
• Lady M notices that her husband is upset and preoccupied. She presumes that he is still distracted by Duncan’s murder. He tells her that he has something “awful and infamous” planned — but will not reveal any other details of his plan to murder Banquo.
• Could Macbeth’s distraction and upsetment be that he is not comfortable with having hired men do his own dirty work? Could he be upset that he has chosen a coward’s way to kill his once-best friend?
Act 3, Scene 3
1) Banquo’s murder.
2) Fleance escapes!
   ✔ Who is the third murderer? If it’s Macbeth, why don’t the other two assassins recognize him? Could it be that he’s in disguise?
   ✔ Remember: “Borrowed robes.” Could Macbeth be disguised (i.e. wearing “borrowed robes”) so that the other two guys don’t spot him?

Act 3, Scene 4
• The banquet. Macbeth “worries” that Banquo’s late.
• The first murderer delivers the news that Banquo is dead, but Fleance is escaped. Why does Macbeth act like he isn’t aware of this?
• Banquo’s ghost appears, and Macbeth starts screaming at what all the others see as an empty chair. Lady Macbeth tells them to pay no mind to Macbeth’s disturbing behavior. “He has been like this since boyhood,” she says.

Act 3, Scene 5
We did not read this scene. In it, the “chief of the witches”, Hecate, acknowledges that they (the witches) have a firm grasp on Macbeth.

Act 3, Scene 6
1) Lennox, who is loyal to Duncan, makes sarcastic remarks about Macbeth to another (unnamed) thane. “Banquo shouldn’t have been out riding late, by himself, alone. He got what he deserved.”
2) Lennox reveals that Macduff has gone to England, there to join forces with Malcolm and various English noblemen (with the blessing of England’s king, Edward) to raise an army against Macbeth.

ACT FOUR NOTES
Act 4, Scene 1
Macbeth’s returns to the witches and demands more information. They agree to reveal to him three apparitions:
1. A helmeted head. This apparition warns: “Beware Macduff; beware the Thane of Fife.”
2. A bloody baby. The second illusion delivers this warning: “Macbeth cannot be harmed by any man born of woman.”
3. A crowned child holding the branch of a tree. This third apparition promises that “Macbeth will not be defeated until Birnam Wood (a forest near his castle) comes to Dunsinane hill (the hill on which Macbeth’s castle is built).”
Act 4, Scene 2
Lady Macduff wonders why her husband has abandoned her and gone so hastily to England. She observes that “even when our actions are not traitorous, our fear can make us look like traitors (lines 3-4).” Regardless of her husband’s true intent, Lady Macduff tells her friend Ross that he has betrayed her and his children... and that he may, in fact be a coward.
Lady Macduff and all of her children are brutally murdered in their undefended castle by Macbeth’s henchmen.

Act 4, Scene 3
Macduff meets with Malcolm in England. Malcolm confides in Macduff that he (Malcolm) is lustful and greedy. Malcolm wonders if Macduff could support his right to the throne knowing that his evils would make Macbeth look “white as snow” and “innocent as a lamb.”

At first, Macduff reassures Malcolm, suggesting that no one can be as evil as Macbeth has been in his short reign. Soon, though, Macduff admits that not only is Malcolm not fit to be king, he’s not fit to live! (103-4)

Malcolm confesses that he was only testing Macduff’s loyalty. Malcolm is pleased that Macduff has shown himself to be loyal to Scotland, NOT JUST to whoever happens to be on Scotland’s throne.

ACT FIVE NOTES
Act 5, Scene 1
Lady Macbeth’s maid has summoned a doctor to try to cure Lady Macbeth of sleepwalking. The doctor observes that Lady Macbeth’s seeming wakefulness but absolute unawareness of anything happening around her is quite unnatural (Remember: “Macbeth has murdered sleep” – II, ii, 35).

Lady Macbeth mentions the murders of Duncan, Banquo, and Macduff. All the while she scrubs her hands, trying to wash away imaginary blood that her guilt causes her to see. “Out, damned spot!” (V, i, 27). This reminds us of what Macbeth says in Act II (Can all great Neptune’s ocean wash [Duncan’s blood] from my hands?” (ii, 58-9). Lady Macbeth replies (ironically) that “A little water will clear us of this [bloody] deed.” (II, ii, 66-7).
Act 5, Scene 2
English soldiers along with Malcolm and Macduff have assembled near Macbeth’s castle. Cool lines:
Sticking... like drying blood.
“His followers act only because they are commanded to do so, not out of love.” (Angus: V, ii, 18-9).
“Now he feels his title of King draped loosely round him, hanging like a giant’s robe upon a dwarf-like thief.” (Angus: V, ii, 19-20).
Act 5, Scene 3
Macbeth’s men are abandoning him in droves. Those who remain are terrified of the obviously superior English force gathering near the castle. Despite his professed confidence in the “safety” guaranteed by the witches’ prophesies, Macbeth seems to be giving-way to panic and fear.
Act 5, Scene 4
Malcolm orders the soldiers in the woods to “each hew down a branch and carry it before him, thus to conceal the size of our force and trick Macbeth’s reconnaissance into making a false report of us.” Birnam Wood will appear to be coming to Dunsinane.
Act 5, Scene 5
Macbeth hears the news that his wife is dead. Suicide? His reaction: “She should have died later.” Now is inconvenient. (V, v, 17).
Act 5, Scene 6
The English forces under Malcolm, Macduff, and Siward capture Macbeth’s castle.
Act 5, Scene 7
Macbeth kills Young Siward (“You’re obviously a man that was born of woman!”) [V, vii, 12].
Outside, the English forces report that Macbeth’s few remaining men do not even fight. Several have come face-to-face with Malcolm himself and done nothing.
Act 5, Scene 8
1) Macduff confronts Macbeth (“Turn, hell-hound, turn!” [V, viii, 3]). Macduff reveals to Macbeth the news that he (Macduff) “was from his mother’s womb untimely ripp’d.” (V, viii, 15-6).
2) Macduff kills Macbeth.
3) Siward ironically observes that they have been very successful with almost no deaths.
4) Malcolm immediately assumes his rightful place as King.
MACBETH CHARACTER MAP

The Doctor
(called by Lady Macbeth’s gentlewoman)

Lady Macduff and son
(Macduff’s wife and son)

Lady Macbeth
(Macbeth’s wife and co-conspirator)

Macduff
thane of Fife)

arranges the murder of
Duncan
(king of Scotland)

encourages in murder of Duncan

arranges the murder of

Macbeth
(great warrior, later king of Scotland)

ultimately kills

join forces against Macbeth

Duncan

puts Macbeth to flight

Macbeth

forces Macbeth to fight

renders prophecies to

Three witches
(agents of Fate)

revels prophecies to

Banquo
(warrior and Macbeth’s friend)

reveals prophecies to

Fleance
(Banquo’s son, father to later Scottish kings)

Supports Macbeth in final battle

Malcolm
(Duncan’s son, later king)

Lennox, Ross, Menteth, Angus, Caithness
(thanes who eventually turn against Macbeth)
Macbeth Quiz (100 Points)

1-10. Lady Macbeth “Naught’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.” (Act III, Scene ii).

Who does she say this to? Explain what she means by this quote. Make sure you apply all that you know from class discussions, notes, and your reading.

11-12. Macbeth creates a plan to murder ___________ and _______________.

13-17. What are the 5 parts to Macbeth’s plan?

A. ____________________________________________________________________________
B. ____________________________________________________________________________
C. ____________________________________________________________________________
D. ____________________________________________________________________________
E. ____________________________________________________________________________

18. When Act 3 begins, __ is king of Scotland.
A. Duncan  B. Malcolm  C. Macbeth  D. Macduff  E. Donalbain

19. Macbeth convinces the two murderers to kill Banquo by telling them that __.
A. he will kill them if they don’t do it  B. Banquo had previously harmed them
C. Banquo is trying to kill him  D. they will be named princes if they do it

20. What is Lady Macbeth’s role in Macbeth’s plan to kill Banquo and Fleance?
A. It is her idea from the beginning  B. She tries to talk him out of it
C. She doesn’t know about it  D. She introduces Macbeth to the murderers
Shakespeare Quiz

1. In what year was Shakespeare born?
   A. 1564
   B. 1616
   C. 1558
   D. 1592

2. Shakespeare was born in what town or city?
   A. London
   B. Stratford-upon-Avon
   C. Paris
   D. Oxford

3. Who did Shakespeare marry?
   A. Lindsey Lohan
   B. Susanna Hall
   C. Anne Hathaway
   D. Mary Queen of Scots

4. Shakespeare was the father of how many children?
   1. 3
   2. 2
   3. 10
   4. 1

5. In what year did Shakespeare die?
   A. 1599
   B. 1616
   C. 1623
   D. 1642
In-Class Writing Assignment (100 points)

MACBETH ACT ONE…List the steps which Lady Macbeth plans to carry out her plan. Explain how she plans to carry each one out. Use examples from the play. Being specific earns more points!
In Class Writing Assignment

MACBETH “’Tis better thee without than he within. Is he dispatched?” (Act III, Scene iv).

Who does he say this to? Explain what he means by this quote (important- who is he talking about?). Where is this quote being said? Make sure you apply all that you know from class discussions, notes, and your reading.
NAME

Macbeth Quiz 2

1. The war in ACT One is between
   A. Scotland and Norway
   B. Scotland and England
   C. England and Ireland

2. King Duncan rewards Macbeth by naming him the
   A. Thane Here After
   B. Thane of Cawdor
   C. Thane of Scotland

3. Fill in the following using your notes…
The witches meet Macbeth and Banquo. They greet Macbeth by telling him—
Witch 1: _________________________________________
Witch 2: _________________________________________
Witch 3: _________________________________________

4. Fill in the following using your notes…
The three witches greet Banquo by telling him—
Witch 1: _________________________________________
Witch 2: _________________________________________
Witch 3: _________________________________________

5. Describe the three witches. Make sure you include their appearance! Details!

________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Just before the murder, Macbeth had a vision of a
   A. bell          B. light         C. dagger    D. crown

7. Lady Macbeth would have killed Duncan herself except
   A. she had no dagger
   B. Duncan resembled her father
   C. Macbeth did it first
Macbeth Act 2 Quiz

_____________________________
Name

_____ 1. __ is fearful of divine punishment because he can’t say “amen”.
   A. Macbeth     B. Banquo     C. Lennox     D. Donalbain  E. Lady Macbeth

_____ 2. __ is awake late at night with his son and is alarmed by dreams he’s had of the witches.
   A. Macbeth     B. Banquo     C. Lennox     D. Donalbain  E. Lady Macbeth

_____ 3. Act II takes place in __.
   A. Duncan’s castle     B. Macbeth’s castle     C. a battlefield     D. the witches’ shack

_____ 4. The dagger that Macbeth sees leading him into Duncan’s room is __.
   A. given to him by Lady Macbeth     B. stolen from his friend, Banquo
   C. given to him by the witches     D. part of a hallucination

_____ 5. When Macbeth talks nervously about the murders, Lady Macbeth tells him to __.
   A. run away immediately     B. kill all the witnesses
   C. pray to God for his salvation     D. relax and be cool

Matching.

_____ 6. Malcolm A. King murdered by Macbeth
_____ 7. Fleance B. Macbeth’s wife
_____ 8. Lady Macbeth C. Thane that killed Macbeth
_____ 9. Duncan D. Duncan’s heir/successor
_____10. Banquo E. Banquo’s son
Macbeth Quiz, Act IV, scene i

NAME ________________________________

1. Upon Macbeth's second visit with the _____________, he sees 3 apparitions.

2. Who is Hecate? ____________________________________________________________

3. What is a cauldron? ________________________________________________________

4-5. “By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes. Open locks, whoever knocks!” Act IV, scene i

Who says the above quote? This quote is referring to which character?

__________________________________________________________

6. Apparition, The armed head:

Meaning: ____________________________________________________________

This apparition foreshadows: _________________________________________

7. Apparition, A bloody child:

Meaning: ____________________________________________________________

This apparition foreshadows: _________________________________________

8. Apparition, A child crowned with a tree (branch) in his hand:

Meaning: ____________________________________________________________

This apparition foreshadows: _________________________________________

9-10. The vision of the 8 kings...what is the meaning and how does Macbeth react?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
1. When Act 3 begins, __ is king of Scotland.
   A. Duncan  B. Malcolm  C. Macbeth  D. Macduff  E. Donalbain

2. Macbeth convinces the two murderers to kill Banquo by telling them that __.
   A. he will kill them if they don’t do it  B. Banquo had previously harmed them
   C. Banquo is trying to kill him  D. they will be named princes if they do it

3. What is Lady Macbeth’s role in Macbeth’s plan to kill Banquo and Fleance?
   A. It is her idea from the beginning  B. She tries to talk him out of it
   C. She doesn’t know about it  D. She introduces Macbeth to the murderers

4. Macbeth’s plan regarding Banquo ultimately fails because __.
   A. Banquo escapes  B. Fleance escapes  C. both Banquo and Fleance escape
   D. one of the murderers gets killed  E. he changes his mind and decides not to kill Banquo

5. Macbeth is happy and social at the banquet until __.
   A. he gets into an argument with Lady Macbeth  B. he sees a ghost
   C. the murderers tell him that Banquo has escaped  D. Fleance returns

6. __ didn’t go to the banquet which makes Macbeth worry about a plan against him.
   A. Macduff  B. Lennox  C. Ross  D. Lady Macbeth

7. When Macbeth says that, “Blood will have blood,” he means that __.
   A. he will have to keep killing more people  B. his son will inherit the throne
   C. he will have to face revenge for his actions  D. the witches are vampires

8. When Macbeth freaks out at the banquet, Lady Macbeth __.
   A. pretends to suffer from the same problem  B. confesses their crimes
   C. says that Macbeth is sick and everyone should go  D. pretends it’s a joke

9. __ is the queen of the witches.
   A. Hecate  B. Siward  C. Northumberland  D. Ross  E. Lennox

10. Malcolm has gone to __ to ask King Edward to help him overthrow Macbeth.
    A. Scotland  B. Ireland  C. Sweden  D. England
1. __ tells Macbeth to beware of Macduff.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

2. __ says that no man born of woman will hurt Macbeth.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

3. __ says that Macbeth won’t be defeated until Birnam forest marches to Macbeth’s castle.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

4. __ shows Macbeth a line of eight kings.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

5. __ tells Macduff that Macbeth has killed his family.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

6. Which character does NOT appear in Act 4?
   A. Macbeth  
   B. Macduff  
   C. the witches  
   D. Lady Macbeth  
   E. Lady Macduff

7. In response to Macbeth’s questions, the witches __.
   A. tell him everything in detail  
   B. show him apparitions which give him some information  
   C. threaten to curse him  
   D. show him the ghost of King Duncan

8. Lady Macduff misses her last chance for escape, which comes when __.
   A. an anonymous messenger warns her  
   B. her son suggests a plan to run away  
   C. Ross stays to fight the murderers  
   D. the murders make too much noise

9. Malcolm pretends he’s too evil to become king in order to __.
   A. make sure that his brother becomes king  
   B. fulfill the witches’ prophecy  
   C. avoid the responsibility of ruling Scotland  
   D. find out if Macduff is loyal

10. When Macduff receives news of his family’s death, Malcolm urges him to __.
    A. try not to think about it  
    B. stay away from Scotland  
    C. get angry and take revenge  
    D. grieve quietly and peacefully
1. The woman in Scene 1 refuses to repeat Lady Macbeth’s sleep-talk to the doctor because ___.
   A. the words are mumbled and she can’t understand them
   B. Lady Macbeth made her promise not to reveal the words to anyone
   C. there is no witness to confirm the truth of her words
   D. she thinks that only the doctor will believe her

2. When Lady Macbeth says, “Out, damned spot!”, the “damned spot” she refers to is ___.
   A. the castle    B. the forest    C. the blood    D. the dagger    E. the shield

3. Macbeth is not afraid of Young Siward because the boy was ___.
   A. far away in England    B. not trained in military strategy    C. scared of Macbeth
   D. born from a woman    E. slow and weak

4. As Macbeth’s anxiety grows, he orders the doctor to ___.
   A. let Lady Macbeth rest for a few days    B. medicate Lady Macbeth with hemlock
   C. kill Lady Macbeth    D. cure Lady Macbeth    E. analyze Lady Macbeth’s actions

5. Which of the following is NOT something Lady Macbeth talks about in her sleep?
   A. Lady Macduff’s wife    B. King Duncan    C. Malcolm    D. Banquo

6. Macbeth’s reaction to his wife’s death shows that he ___.
   A. thinks life is a meaningless path to death    B. cares about her deeply
   C. realizes he can’t win the battle without her support    D. is still optimistic

7. A messenger tells Macbeth that ___.
   A. Banquo’s ghost has returned    B. Lady Macbeth has been murdered
   C. Fleance has joined the battle    D. the forest is coming towards the castle

8. Macbeth finally realizes that the witches and apparitions ___.
   A. told him the truth    B. deceived him with ambiguous messages
   C. were just in his imagination    D. were committed to his best intentions

9. __ was not born of woman and is able to kill Macbeth.
   A. Malcolm    B. Macduff    C. Siward    D. Ross    E. Lennox

10. __ becomes king at the end of the play.
    A. Malcolm    B. Macduff    C. Siward    D. Ross    E. Lennox
Macbeth Quiz, Act IV, scene iii

NAME ____________________________________

- Malcolm tests Macduff’s character.
- Macduff has just been told that Macbeth has murdered his wife and children and has ample cause to seek personal revenge.

Using your notes...explain the three parts to Malcolm’s test. And at the end of the test, what does Malcolm admit?

____________________________________________________________________________
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Macbeth Background Notes

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ______________

Directions: Use your notes to fill in the following...

Settings:
1. The action of the play takes place in northern ________________ or in ____________.
2. The scenes are set at or near the following places:
   a. King Duncan’s castle at ___________
   b. ____________’s castle at Inverness
   c. Macduff’s castle at Fife
   d. Birnam ________
   e. ____________ Hill (in the countryside)
3. A scene is also set at a castle in England.

Character List:
1. Macbeth: protagonist (the character who drives the action); ambitious army general in ____________; viewed as a hero at the onset of the play for his success in ____________
2. Lady Macbeth: Wife of Macbeth; very persuasive and aggressive in her ____________
3. King Duncan: King of ____________
4. Malcolm: Oldest _______ of King Duncan; Prince of ______________
5. Donalbain: Youngest son of King __________
6. Banquo: Army general; good, loyal friend of __________
7. Three Witches: Hags who can predict the future for ____________; also called the three ____________ sisters; Weird is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word ________, meaning fate. The three witches are also a reference to the three goddesses of ____________ from Hesiod’s tales.
8. Hecate: (Witch 4) Mistress of the witches’ charms and queen of ____________; referred to as the queen of the witches
9. Macduff: Scottish ____________ and Lord of ____________; known for his wisdom and integrity
10. Lady Macduff: Wife of Macduff
11. Son of Macduff
12. Lennox, Ross, Menteith, Angus, Caithness: Scottish ____________
13. Fleance: Son of ____________
14. Siward: Earl of ________________; general of the ____________ forces
15. Young Siward: Son of Siward
16. Seyton: Officer attending ____________
17. Soldier

18. Porter

19. Doctor

20. Old Man

21. Three Apparitions: Three ghosts of great significance for ___________; very symbolic of the events in the play

The Real Macbeth:
✓ Macbeth was an 11th Century Scot who took the throne in 1040 after killing King __________ I, his cousin, in battle.
✓ The real Macbeth was believed to be a wise ___________ who reigned over Scotland for ______________ prosperous years.
✓ In 1057, King Duncan’s oldest son, ____________, ended Macbeth’s reign by killing him in battle and assuming the role as King ____________ III.

Shakespeare’s Inspiration:
✓ Shakespeare got his ideas for Macbeth from Raphael Holinshed’s ________________, which tells a different tale using similar characters and references to husband-wife relationships, murder, deceit, and mutiny.
✓ Shakespeare was also influenced by the Roman dramatist _____________ (4-65 A.D.), who wrote horrific plays about revenge and murder. Shakespeare appears to be inspired by some of the same themes as Seneca.

Witchcraft in Shakespeare’s Day:
✓ Many people believed in the power of __________ in Shakespeare’s day, especially King __________ I. In 1591, when he was King of ______________, King James was almost murdered by a group of witches and sorcerers. Their trial and testimony convinced King James that they were indeed sources of evil.
✓ King James became King of ______________ in 1603. Shakespeare knew very well of King James’s superstition, and he also knew that a play about witchcraft would cause a stir and make a quick buck. Therefore, he wrote Macbeth, a play full of elements of evil!

Fascinating Facts:
✓ The words ____________ and ____________ (or forms of them, such as bloody and tonight) occur more than 40 times each in Macbeth.
✓ Other commonly occurring words that help maintain the mood of the play are terrible, ____________, black, ____________, and evil.
MACBETH Test

MATCHING -- Match the word/name on the left with the definition/description on the right.

1. _____England                         a. praises Macbeth's castle
2. _____eye of newt                      b. a traitor to Scotland
3. _____Birnam                           c. tells Fleance to escape
4. _____The Dagger                       d. attends the banquet
5. _____Scone                            e. appears to Lady Macbeth
6. _____a bloodstain                     a. where Scottish kings are crowned
7. _____Banquo's ghost                    b. appears before Duncan's murder
8. _____Banquo                           c. a forest
9. _____Macdonwald                       d. part of the witches' brew
10. _____Duncan                          a. refuge for Malcolm

Multiple Choice

11. is fearful of divine punishment because he can't say “amen”.
   A. Macbeth    B. Banquo    C. Lennox    D. Donalbain    E. Lady Macbeth

12. fears that the bloody daggers will reveal who killed the King and replaces them in the room.
   A. Macbeth    B. Banquo    C. Lennox    D. Donalbain    E. Lady Macbeth

13. is awake late at night with his son and is alarmed by dreams he's had of the witches.
   A. Macbeth    B. Banquo    C. Lennox    D. Donalbain    E. Lady Macbeth

14. Act II takes place in __.
   A. Duncan's castle    B. Macbeth's castle    C. a battlefield    D. the witches' shack

15. The dagger that Macbeth sees leading him into Duncan's room is __.
   A. given to him by Lady Macbeth    B. stolen from his friend, Banquo
   C. given to him by the witches    D. part of a hallucination
16. When Macbeth talks nervously about the murders, Lady Macbeth tells him to __.
   A. run away immediately  
   B. kill all the witnesses  
   C. pray to God for his salvation  
   D. relax and be cool

17. When Act 3 begins, __ is king of Scotland.
   A. Duncan  
   B. Malcolm  
   C. Macbeth  
   D. Macduff  
   E. Donalbain

18. Macbeth convinces the two murderers to kill Banquo by telling them that __.
   A. he will kill them if they don't do it  
   B. Banquo had previously harmed them  
   C. Banquo is trying to kill him  
   D. they will be named princes if they do it

19. What is Lady Macbeth's role in Macbeth's plan to kill Banquo and Fleance?
   A. It is her idea from the beginning  
   B. She tries to talk him out of it  
   C. She doesn't know about it  
   D. She introduces Macbeth to the murderers

20. Macbeth's plan regarding Banquo ultimately fails because __.
   A. Banquo escapes  
   B. Fleance escapes  
   C. both Banquo and Fleance escape  
   D. one of the murderers gets killed  
   E. he changes his mind & decides not to kill Banquo

21. Macbeth is happy and social at the banquet until __.
   A. he gets into an argument with Lady Macbeth  
   B. he sees a ghost  
   C. the murderers tell him that Banquo has escaped  
   D. Fleance returns

22. _______ didn't go to the banquet which makes Macbeth worry about a plan against him.
   A. Macduff  
   B. Lennox  
   C. Ross  
   D. Lady Macbeth

23. When Macbeth says that, "Blood will have blood," he means that __.
   A. he will have to keep killing more people  
   B. his son will inherit the throne  
   C. he will have to face revenge for his actions  
   D. the witches are vampires

24. When Macbeth freaks out at the banquet, Lady Macbeth __.
   A. pretends to suffer from the same problem  
   B. confesses their crimes  
   C. says that Macbeth is sick and everyone should go  
   D. pretends it's a joke

25. _______ is the queen of the witches.
   A. Hecate  
   B. Siward  
   C. Northumberland  
   D. Ross  
   E. Lennox

26. Malcolm has gone to __ to ask King Edward to help him overthrow Macbeth.
   A. Scotland  
   B. Ireland  
   C. Sweden  
   D. England

27. The country in which the story Macbeth takes place is...
   a. England & Scotland  
   b. Ireland  
   c. Scotland only  
   d. Norway
28. The witches told Macbeth that he would be...
   a. king     c. Thane of Cawdor
   b. the father of kings   d. both A and C

29. The witches told Banquo...
   a. he would be king     c. his descendents would be kings
   b. he would be killed    d. that he should be careful

30. Macbeth was finally persuaded to commit the murder of Duncan by
   a. his wife   b. a fear of Donalbain  c. Banquo  d. a second visit to the witches

31. The person chiefly responsible for planning King Duncan’s murder was...
   a. Macbeth  c. Lady Macbeth
   b. Banquo   d. Malcolm

32. Lady Macbeth did not kill Duncan because
   a. she had no dagger.
   b. Macbeth killed him before she had a chance.
   c. she could not bear the sight of blood.
   d. he resembled her father as he slept.

33. King Duncan’s sons flee Scotland because they...
   a. helped murder the king     b. fear for their lives

34. Macbeth hired murderers to kill...
   a. Malcolm  c. Duncan
   b. Banquo   d. Ross

35. Macbeth wanted Banquo murdered because
   a. he feared Banquo’s descendents would be kings.
   b. Lady Macbeth wanted it.
   c. Banquo was raising an army against him.
   d. the witches advised it.

36. At the banquet, what upset Macbeth and eventually resulted in the guests being asked to leave?
   a. the appearance of Banquo’s ghost
   b. the vision of the dagger
   c. Lady Macbeth’s hand washing incident
37. The three apparitions are three ghosts of great significance for ______________: very symbolic of the events in the play
a. Donalbain  
b. Lady Macbeth  
c. Macbeth  
d. Hecate

38. The three witches: Hags who can predict the future for Macbeth; also called the three _________ sisters
a. hot  
b. weird  
c. water  
d. Hecate

39. __ tells Macbeth to beware of Macduff.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   B. the bloody head  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

40. __ says that no man born of woman will hurt Macbeth.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   B. the bloody child  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

41. __ says that Macbeth won’t be defeated until Birnam forest marches to Macbeth’s castle.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   B. the bloody child  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

42. __ shows Macbeth a line of eight kings.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   B. the bloody child  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

43. __ tells Macduff that Macbeth has killed his family.
   A. the child with a crown and a tree branch  
   B. the bloody child  
   C. the armed head  
   D. Banquo’s ghost  
   E. Ross

44. Which character does NOT appear in Act 4?
   A. Macbeth  
   B. Macduff  
   C. the witches  
   D. Lady Macbeth  
   E. Lady Macduff

45. In response to Macbeth’s questions, the witches __.
   A. tell him everything in detail  
   B. show him apparitions which give him some information  
   C. threaten to curse him  
   D. show him the ghost of King Duncan

46. Lady Macduff misses her last chance for escape, which comes when __.
   A. an anonymous messenger warns her  
   B. her son suggests a plan to run away  
   C. Ross stays to fight the murderers  
   D. the murders make too much noise

47. Malcolm pretends he’s too evil to become king in order to __.
   A. make sure that his brother becomes king  
   B. fulfill the witches’ prophecy  
   C. avoid the responsibility of ruling Scotland  
   D. find out if Macduff is loyal
48. When Macduff receives news of his family’s death, Malcolm urges him to __.
   A. try not to think about it              B. stay away from Scotland
   C. get angry and take revenge              D. grieve quietly and peacefully

49. The woman in Scene 1 refuses to repeat Lady Macbeth’s sleep-talk to the doctor because __.
   A. the words are mumbled and she can’t understand them
   B. Lady Macbeth made her promise not to reveal the words to anyone
   C. there is no witness to confirm the truth of her words
   D. she thinks that only the doctor will believe her

50. When Lady Macbeth says, “Out, damned spot!”, the “damned spot” she refers to is __.
   A. the castle              B. the forest              C. the blood              D. the dagger              E. the shield

51. Macbeth is not afraid of Young Siward because the boy was __.
   A. far away in England              B. not trained in military strategy
   C. scared of Macbeth              D. born from a woman
   E. slow and weak

52. As Macbeth’s anxiety grows, he orders the doctor to __.
   A. let Lady Macbeth rest for a few days
   B. medicate Lady Macbeth with hemlock
   C. kill Lady Macbeth
   D. cure Lady Macbeth
   E. analyze Lady Macbeth’s actions

53. Which of the following is NOT something Lady Macbeth talks about in her sleep?
   A. Lady Macduff’s wife
   B. King Duncan
   C. Malcolm
   D. Banquo

54. Macbeth’s reaction to his wife’s death shows that he __.
   A. thinks life is a meaningless path to death
   B. cares about her deeply
   C. realizes he can’t win the battle without her support
   D. is still optimistic

55. A messenger tells Macbeth that __.
   A. Banquo’s ghost has returned
   B. Lady Macbeth has been murdered
   C. Fleance has joined the battle
   D. the forest is coming towards the castle

56. Macbeth finally realizes that the witches and apparitions __.
   A. told him the truth
   B. deceived him with ambiguous messages
   C. were just in his imagination
   D. were committed to his best intentions

57. __ was not born of woman and is able to kill Macbeth.
   A. Malcolm              B. Macduff              C. Siward
   D. Ross
   E. Lennox

58. __ becomes king at the end of the play.
   A. Malcolm              B. Macduff              C. Siward
   D. Ross
   E. Lennox
True or False - For each of the following statements, indicate T or F clearly on the sheet.

59. “Thane” is an English title of nobility, similar to a French duke

60. The King of Norway sided with the Thane of Cawdor and Macdonwald against King Duncan and the Scottish forces in Act I’s battle

61. In Act I, Macbeth lets Macdonwald escapes due to their long friendship.

62. The witches tell Banquo that he will be king, but he will not father kings.

63. The Thane of Cawdor is pardoned by King Duncan.

64. In Act V, Donalbain and the Irish troops prepare to attack Macbeth.

65. Macbeth, by the time Malcolm attacks, knows he cannot count on support from his followers.

66. Macduff was "from his mother’s womb untimely ripped" and therefore can and does kill Macbeth, fulfilling the witches’ prophesy.

67. Banquo faints after the killing of Duncan.

68. Duncan is suspicious of Macbeth.

69. The doctor says he can cure Lady Macbeth if only Macbeth will pay him.

70. Macbeth’s chief fear about killing Duncan is punishment after death.