

## MACBETH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Important characters** ---Duncan—King of Scotland
  - Malcolm—Duncan's elder son
  - Donalbain—Duncan's younger son
  - Macbeth—a general in the army of King Duncan; originally Thane of Glamis, then Thane of Cawdor, and later King of Scotland
  - Lady Macbeth—Macbeth's wife, and later Queen of Scotland
  - Banquo—Macbeth's friend and a general in the army of King Duncan
  - Fleance—Banquo's son
  - Macduff—Thane of Fife
  - Lady Macduff—Macduff's wife
  - Macduff's son
  - Three Witches

- **Who is Macbeth?**

Macbeth is the Thane of Glamis and praised for his bravery and fighting prowess.

- **Who is King of Scotland at the start of the play?**

Ans.-- King Duncan

- **2. What do the witches predict for Macbeth and Banquo ?**

They predict that Banquo that he should never reign yet his sons after him should be kings in Scotland. and that Macbeth will become Thane of Cawdor and then King.

- **3. Why does king come to visit Macbeth?**

Ans.-- Duncan welcomes and praises Macbeth and Banquo, and declares that he will spend the night at Macbeth's castle at Inverness; he also names his son Malcolm as his heir.

- **4. How does Lady Macbeth persuade her husband to carry out his evil plan?**

Macbeth sends a message ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her about the witches' prophecies. Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty and wishes him to murder Duncan in order to obtain kingship. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections by challenging his manhood and successfully

persuades him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so that they will black out; the next morning they will blame the chamberlains for the murder. They will be defenseless as they will remember nothing.

- **5. Why do you think Macbeth sees the ghost of Banquo which no one else can see?**

After Banquo is killed by Macbeth's hired assassins, at a banquet, Macbeth invites his lords and Lady Macbeth to a night of drinking and merriment. Banquo's ghost enters and sits in Macbeth's place. Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, as the ghost is only visible to him. The others panic at the sight of Macbeth raging at an empty chair, until a desperate Lady Macbeth tells them that her husband is merely afflicted with a familiar and harmless malady. The ghost departs and returns once more, causing the same riotous anger and fear in Macbeth. Banquo's ghost enters and sits in Macbeth's place. Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, as the ghost is only visible to him.

#### **6. Why does Macbeth seek out the witch sisters again?**

Macbeth, being disturbed by the ghost of Banquo, visits the three witches once more and asks them to reveal the truth of their prophecies to him. To answer his questions, they summon horrible apparitions, each of which offers predictions and further prophecies to put Macbeth's fears at rest.

#### **7. Why do Scottish nobility hate Macbeth?**

The Scottish nobles, are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical and murderous behaviour.

- **8. How does Birnam Wood come to Dunsinane castle?**

To take revenge on Macbeth, Malcolm leads an army, along with Macduff and Englishmen against Dunsinane Castle. While encamped in Birnam Wood, the soldiers are ordered to cut down and carry tree limbs to camouflage their numbers. The English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood.9999999