**Macbeth ACT 1**

Act 1, scenes 1 and 2

**1. Fill in the gaps.**

The play begins with three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meeting in a “desolate place”. They agree to gather again when the battle is over, and meet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They seem to know the future and chant strange words, creating a very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere.

Act 1:2 opens with a bloody \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ giving a report of the battle. He tells King \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ personally killed the traitor Macdonald. Although fresh Norwegian troops arrived, Macbeth and Banquo fought on. Macbeth then captured the Thane of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a traitor and obtained a ransom and a favourable peace treaty. King \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentences the Thane of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to death, and gives the title to Macbeth as a reward for his bravery.

**2. Shakespeare’s Language.**

In Act 1:1 Shakespeare creates a strange and sinister atmosphere using language.

Shakespeare uses two lines of poetry which rhyme. These are called **rhyming couplets**. “Couplets” tell us there are two lines of poetry and “rhyming” tell us that they rhyme. Rhyming couplets are often used to round off a long speech. However in the witches’ scene they are used to create a spooky atmosphere because they sound like spells.

Below, give examples of rhyming couplets from Act 1:1:

The words which rhyme are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The rhyming couplets in this scene give a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effect.

Act 1, scenes 3 and 4

**First, copy out this paragraph into your neat book, filling in the gaps.**

The three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet upon the heath. They discuss the mischief and evil they have created, which tells the audience that their magic is powerful. Macbeth and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enter. The witches hail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with three different titles, as Thane of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which he already is, as Thane of Cawdor and finally as the future \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ demands to know his future too, and the witches tell him that one day his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be kings. The witches then vanish. The lord Ross brings news of the King’s pleasure at Macbeth’s victory and tells Macbeth that he has been made the Thane of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a reward. Macbeth begins to consider the moral issues surrounding the witches’ predictions, and is horrified at the idea of killing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so he can become the King.

In Act 1:4 King Duncan says it is difficult to judge people from their outward appearance. This is ironic because he then warmly welcomes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who has in fact been considering murdering him. Macbeth declares loyalty to Duncan, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is made heir to the throne, which upsets Macbeth. The whole party go to stay with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Inverness.

**Now answer these questions:**

1. What is strange about the witches’ appearance? (Act 1:3 line 44)
2. Look at Macbeth’s first line (Act 1:3 line 36) Who does it directly echo? (look at Act 1:1 line 12)
3. What does this connection make us feel about Macbeth?
4. What does Banquo call Macbeth at line 52?
5. What does Banquo call Macbeth at line 147?
6. What is the relationship like between Macbeth and Banquo?
7. What happens when Macbeth commands the witches to speak? (line 76)
8. What does this tell you about the witches?

**Now complete these activities:**

1. Look up the word “**soliloquy**” in the dictionary, then write down what it means.
2. Where can you find an example of a soliloquy in Act 1:3?
3. Why does Shakespeare include this soliloquy?

Act 1: scenes 5, 6 and 7

**First copy out this passage into your book, filling in the gaps.**

Scene 5: Lady Macbeth reads a letter from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ telling her of the witches’ prophecy. She thinks her husband may be too weak and decent to murder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and so she will have to persuade him. She calls on evil \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to help in her murderous plans. Macbeth enters and tells her that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is visiting them that night. Lady Macbeth says they must hide their murderous intentions behind welcoming looks.

Scene 6: The king and his loyal subjects arrive at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The King and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comment on how pleasant the castle seems. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ greets the King warmly and states her loyalty to him.

Scene 7: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ struggles with his conscience and tells Lady Macbeth that he will not murder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. She calls him a coward, says he isn’t a man and that she would rather kill her own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than break such a promise. She says she will drug the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who will be blamed for the murder. Macbeth agrees and says they must hide their plans in pleasant and welcoming looks.

**Now answer these questions in FULL SENTENCES:**

1. Where do all three of these scenes take place?
2. King Duncan says how pleasant Macbeth’s castle looks. Why is this **ironic**? (think about what could happen to him in there!)
3. Lady Macbeth welcomes Duncan sweetly with loyalty and respect. Why is this **ironic**? (think about what she has in store for him!)

**Finally, read through the discussion between Lady Macbeth and Macbeth in Act 1:7. Who do you think is in control? Write a paragraph on the back of this page explaining why - using at least two quotations to prove your point.**