

Act II – Student Notes and Study Guide

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Scene 1 – Complete for homework

1. Select key words and images that describe what the weather is like on the eve before Duncan’s death.

- a)
- b)
- c)



These examples work together to create the mood and atmosphere of the scene. They are examples of pathetic fallacy where the attribution of human emotions or characteristics to inanimate objects to nature reflect what is going on in the story or a character’s life.

They also develop the theme of order vs. disorder.

2. Banquo states, _____, which reveals that he is feeling eerie and unsafe at Macbeth’s castle. This is an example of _____.

3. List one example of dramatic irony in the beginning of this scene. _____

4. What evidence exists that Banquo has been tempted by the prophecy made to him, but that he is trying to resist its evil influence? _____

5. Macbeth asks Banquo for his “support at the right moment.” What is Macbeth asking of Banquo? _____

How does Banquo respond to the request? _____

6. Examine Macbeth’s “Is this a dagger” soliloquy, and make notes below. Using key lines, show how this soliloquy

a) Creates the atmosphere _____

b) Advances the plot _____

c) Reveals Macbeth’s character and his troubled mind _____

d) Specific lines that show his indecision about killing the King _____

7. For what reason does the ‘bell ring’ at the end of his speech _____

8. What is Macbeth’s greatest mistake in this scene: _____

*Macbeth’s 3rd soliloquy adds to the atmosphere of the play. It reveals his troubled state of mind. In the play there is a relationship between conscience and imagination. **When a character is troubled by his/her mind, he/she tends to see or hear things that do not exist.** Macbeth is so obsessed with the murder that he has hallucinations. He wants the crown but is full of apprehension to get it. Even though he has reservations about committing the deed, he feels he is at the point of no return: the murder is imminent.*