

Macbeth Act III Questions

Act III, Scene i

1. Banquo opens the scene with a soliloquy in which he reflects on Macbeth's actions. What conclusion does he reach and which specific lines communicate his fears?
2. When he is speaking to Banquo, upon whom does he attempt to shift the blame for the murder of Duncan?
3. Why does Macbeth conclude that Banquo must die? There is essentially more than one reason. Who else does he feel must "embrace the fate/Of that dark hour"?

Act III, Scene ii

4. Explain what she means when Lady Macbeth says, "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." What do they destroy and what is "doubtful joy"?

Act III, Scene iii

5. How does Macbeth convince the murderers that it is right to kill Banquo?

Act III, Scene iv

6. What bad news does Macbeth receive from the murderers?
7. Why are the events of the banquet so disastrous for the Macbeths?
8. What at the end of this scene does Lady Macbeth suggest Macbeth needs to feel better and why is that ironic?

Act III, Scene vi

9. What does the conversation of the lords in this scene reveal is changing in their views of Macbeth?

10. Where has MacDuff gone to and why do you think he has gone there?