
MacBeth: Act I & II

Comic relief: The use of a comic scene to lighten the mood after a very serious or tragic scene.

Pathetic Fallacy: Nature's reflection of events taking place in the play, novel, movie, etc. Ex: Pouring rain at a funeral.

Answer the following in your notebooks:

Reconsider Act I:

1. Make a "T" chart, listing on one side the factors that are tempting Macbeth to murder Duncan and, on the other, factors that are holding him back.
2. Flip the page over and fill out the chart. You can work with the people around you (stay in your seats, however).

Act II:

1. In the beginning of scene I (Act II) Banquo and Macbeth agree to speak about the witches' prophecies at some point in time. However, Banquo makes it clear that two conditions apply. What are they? (lns 32-35).
2. Take a minute and reread Macbeth's soliloquy in scene I (lns 40-72). Briefly paraphrase Macbeth's hallucination (what does he "see"?). What might be some possible causes for his hallucination?
3. Macbeth seems to be procrastinating. Why do you think that is? What might that say about his state of mind?
4. Fleance, Banquo's son, makes an appearance at the beginning of Act II. Remembering the witches' prophecies, how does his appearance foreshadow the events that follow?

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Give, in the appropriate columns, a brief description of Macbeth as given by each of the following characters. Point form is fine. Leave room to note whether or not you agree with the description. Finally, in the last column, what are your own impressions?

Bleeding Soldier	Duncan	Lady Macbeth	Your own