

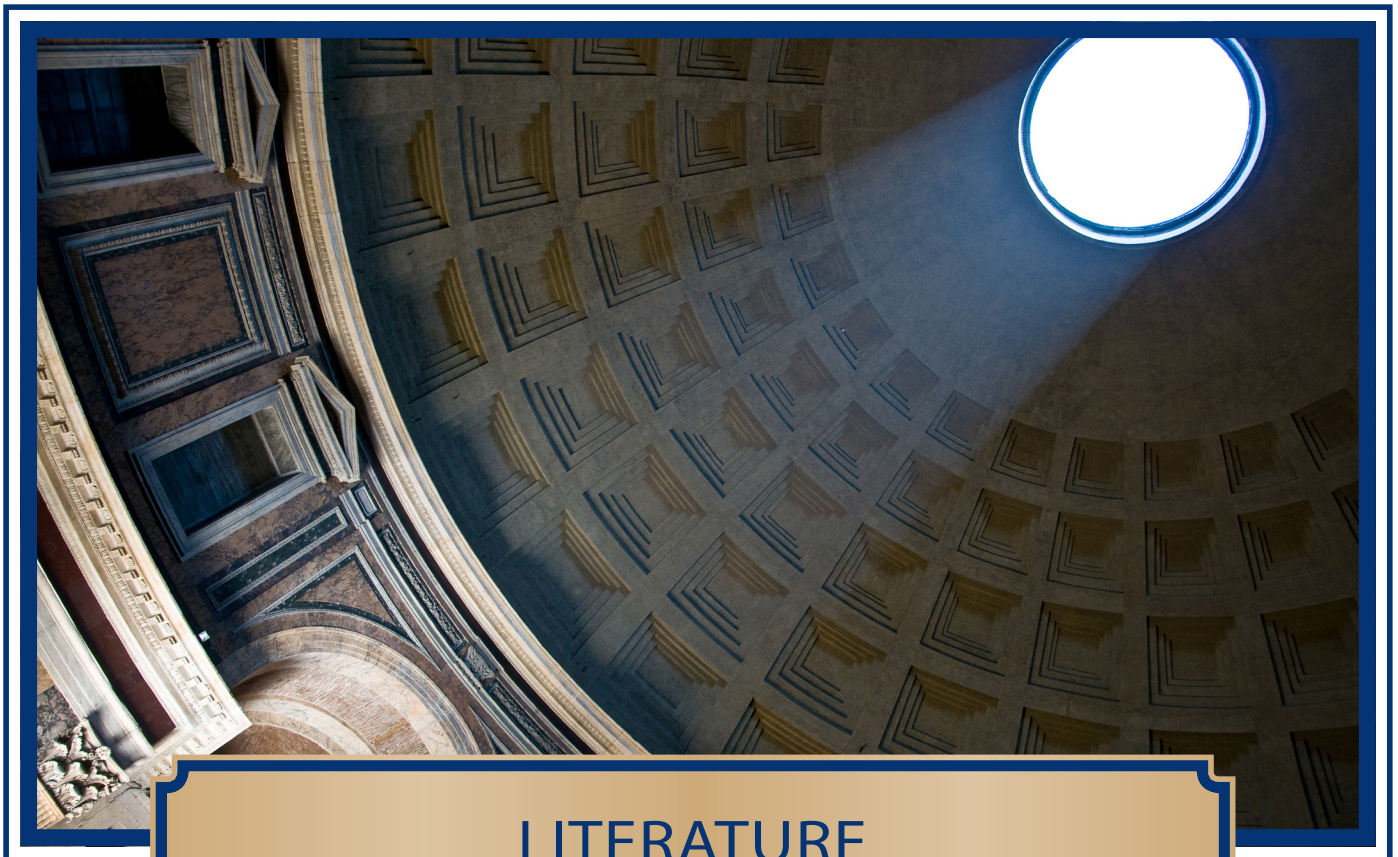


CLASSICAL
LATIN SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

Teacher Training

For Classical Teachers

SAVING WESTERN CIVILIZATION ONE STUDENT AT A TIME



LITERATURE

High School - Ninth to Twelfth

High School Literature

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. They are presumably in an open field amidst thunder and lightning. They agree to meet again in a "heath," an uncultivated flatland area "when the hurlyburly's done"—that is, after the battle that is described in scene 2.
2. "Fair is foul, and foul is fair" (1.10). This line foreshadows the darkness and corruption that will saturate the two main characters and permeate the major events of the play. It casts a dark tone over the play, and foreshadows the change from good to evil.
3. Answers will vary. Rhetorically, the parallel structure with contrasting words captures well the situation: the Thane of Cawdor has now lost the title while Macbeth has gained the title.
4. The Thane of Cawdor—because he joined forces with the king of Norway. He is executed.
5. "So foul and fair a day I have not seen" (1.3.38). Yes, the mixture of foul and fair that Macbeth sees in the weather is eerily reminiscent of the Witches' declaration in the opening scene that "fair is foul, and foul is fair." The weather can be seen here to represent the theme of moral corruption.
6. Speaking rather cryptically, the Witches hail Macbeth three times and speak to him with titles he has not yet attained. Banquo queries the Witches, but they give him a cryptic answer too. They tell him he will be "lesser than Macbeth, and greater," (1.3.65) that he will be "not so happy, yet much happier," (1.3.66) and also that he will beget a line of kings. No, Macbeth and Banquo are rather stupefied by the mysterious prophecies.
7. Ross and Angus bring news from the king, who has sent his regards and to honor the men for their courage and success in the battles. The men also announce that Duncan has bestowed the title of Thane of Cawdor upon Macbeth because of the former Thane's treason. Macbeth and Banquo are astonished by the truth of the Witches' prophecy about the title of Thane of Cawdor. They wonder what this can all mean.
8. It reveals how influential Christian belief and thought was to their culture. Confession, repentance, forgiveness, and a concern for the soul are crucial Christian doctrines and practices. Even a traitor knows how crucial it is to die in a proper manner—that is, in preparation for judgment and eternal life.
9. Duncan says there is no method or technique to read a person's mind by looking at his face. This is significant because it is another instance of foreshadowing. It foreshadows the outward deception that will hide horrific deeds, and it relates to the discrepancy between appearances and reality, a major theme in the play.



Read Act 1, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the **setting** in the opening scene. When and where do the Witches plan to meet again?
2. Quote the instance of **antimetabole** in scene 1. How does this line **foreshadow** the **mood** and **theme** of the play?
3. *What he hath lost, won.* (1.2.69)
How does the use of **antithesis** in the line above help communicate the situation at hand?
4. Who becomes a traitor, and why? What happens to him as a result?
5. In scene 3, Macbeth makes a comment about the weather (**setting**). Quote the line in your Literature Notebook. Is this another instance of **foreshadowing**? Explain.
6. What are the prophecies that the Witches tell Banquo and Macbeth? Do they fully understand the Witches' prophecies?
7. What news is brought to Macbeth and Banquo, and by whom? How do the men feel about the news?
8. Malcolm. *My liege,
They are not come back. But I have spoke
With one that saw him die; who did report
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons,
Implor'd your Highness' pardon, and set forth
A deep repentance.* (1.4.2-7)
What does this reveal about the religious nature of the medieval and Elizabethan culture and worldview?
9. Duncan. *There's no art
To find the mind's construction in the face.
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.* (1.4.11-14)
Paraphrase this passage. What is significant about these words? Do these words **foreshadow** anything or relate to any major **themes**?

10. Macbeth. [Aside.] *The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step,
On which, or else o'er-leap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires.
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.* (1.4.48-53)

Summarize this passage. What is significant here?

11. What comprises the letter that Macbeth writes to Lady Macbeth? How does she react? What is significant about this scene?

12. What is Lady Macbeth's plan? Does she convince Macbeth?

LITERARY & RHETORICAL DEVICE EXERCISES

1. *Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit; and to conclude,
The victory fell on us.* (1.2.56-59)

Identify the use of **aphaerisis** in the quote above and copy the line in your Literature Notebook.

2. Macbeth. [Aside.] *If chance will have me King, why, chance
may crown me,
Without my stir.* (1.3.143-144)

Explain the presence of **antecedent and consequent** (topic of relationship) in the quote above.

3. *What beast was't then
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both;
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you.* (1.7.47-54)

Explain the presence of **peristasis** in Lady Macbeth's argument to Macbeth.

10. Macbeth is clearly agitated about Duncan's proclamation of his son Malcolm as the Prince of Cumberland, the heir to the throne. Internalizing this and fueling his growing inner conflict, Macbeth puzzles about how Malcolm can be the next monarch when the Witches declared that he would be. He says that this will be a hurdle that he either falls upon or leaps over. His scheming and speculating is highly significant, especially his dark hope that the light will not reveal his "*black and deep desires.*"

11. Macbeth writes in his letter about the meeting with the Witches, their prophecies of his rise to political power, and the first prophecy that has already come true: his elevation to Thane of Cawdor. She reacts with base lust; she desires to be queen, every bit as much or more than Macbeth does to be king. She also muses upon her husband's nature, doubting whether he has the gumption to commit the murder. Then she resolves to become a great influence and force upon him, steering him toward committing the murder—to make up for his weak nature. Her dark, evil desires and crazed lust make this scene very significant. She shows herself as darker and more base than Macbeth.

12. Her plan is to get Duncan's two guards very drunk and then smear the king's blood upon them and their daggers while they slumber in their drunken state. Yes, Macbeth finally relents and agrees to commit the murder.

LITERARY & RHETORICAL DEVICE EXERCISES

1. "Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm"

2. The "if ... why [then] ..." compound sentence reveals the antecedent-consequent structure. If chance would make Macbeth king, why, chance might crown him without him doing anything!

3. Answers will vary. This is a tough question. Students will most likely need assistance. At this point, Macbeth has decided to go no further with the scheme to kill King Duncan, as Duncan has recently given honor and praise to Macbeth. So Lady Macbeth reigns down an argument on Macbeth using peristasis, which details the circumstances of a thing—in this case, an argument from time and place.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. By means of deesis, Lady Macbeth invokes the evil spirits, "Come, you spirits ...," to possess her with demonic evil and cruelty. Her entire supplication is appalling because of what she asks for and from whom. She implores the spirits to unsex her—that is, remove her womanliness—and fill her from head to toe with dire cruelty. She pleads for her blood to be thickened and her feelings to be numbed so that she will be incapable of remorse, and so that no feelings of pity will get in the way of her deadly purpose and its completion. Then, in further ghastly supplication, she begs the spirits to come to her woman's breasts and exchange her motherly milk for gall. She calls specifically to the spirits of murder, the "murd'ring ministers," who aid in the evil found in nature (probably both human nature and the destructive forces of physical nature).
2. Aporia is present throughout this speech as Macbeth deliberates with himself on whether to kill Duncan. He considers the consequences of this murder in his earthly life and in eternal life. He reasons that even if he forfeits the eternal life, he could still be judged in this life by teaching others to commit bloody crimes, and by consequence having the poisonous cup returned to his own lips. Macbeth then realizes that King Duncan has two good reasons to trust him—first, he is Duncan's relative and his subject, and second, he is Duncan's host, and any right host should close the door to protect his guest from a murderer, not commit the murder. Macbeth then reasons that Duncan has been so mild with his power and blameless with his reign that his virtues will protest the murder, pleading loudly, and that all the citizens will feel pity and mourn for Duncan. After thinking through all these reasons not to kill Duncan, he arrives at the conclusion that he has no reason to commit the crime—there is nothing to spur him on except his vaulting ambition.
3. Lady Macbeth uses rhetorical questions to great effect in her speech. Erotema contains a powerful emotional element that gives it great rhetorical force. In this situation, perhaps no other rhetorical tool would have been as effective as the use of erotema, for it gives her speech an emotive, persuasive thrust that in large part causes Macbeth to agree to commit the murder.
4. Answers will vary. Adages represent the testimony of many people over a long period of time. They are often employed to add force and power to an argument. In this case, it serves as the clincher, the closing line of Lady Macbeth's argument in that speech.

RHETORICAL EXPRESSION

1. On a battlefield in the midst of thunder and lightning, three witches plan to meet Macbeth when the fighting is complete. Macbeth and Banquo have fought courageously in the battle. King Duncan receives this good news, and he rewards Macbeth with the elevated title of Thane of Cawdor. The three witches deliver quite strange prophecies to Banquo and Macbeth. The first prophecy proves true! At the king's palace at Forres, Malcolm tells Duncan that the Thane of Cawdor has been executed. Macbeth and Banquo show up with Angus and Ross. Duncan thanks both Malcolm and Banquo for their courageous military service, and he greets Macbeth as the new Thane of Cawdor. Duncan also names Malcolm as the heir to the throne. Alone in Macbeth's castle, Lady Macbeth reads

LOGIC | Dialectic

The student reasons with the facts, elements, and features of the play; sorts, arranges, compares, and connects ideas – and begins to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. Read 1.5.37-51, starting at "Come, you spirits"
This speech by Lady Macbeth is one of the most horrifying supplications in all of Shakespeare. Briefly **summarize** the speech. Include how it is an example of **deesis**. What makes her speech so ghastly and appalling?
2. Provide a brief **summary** of Act 1, scene 7, lines 1-28. In your summary, be sure to explain the presence of **aporia**, as well as your perspective on the **logical reasons** in Macbeth's argument. What conclusion does Macbeth come to at the end of these lines?
3. Read 1.7.35-41, starting at "Was the"
Discuss Lady Macbeth's use of **erotema** (the **rhetorical question**) in her argument. How effective is this technique? What effect does it have on Macbeth?
4. Read 1.7.43-45, starting at "And live a coward in thine own esteem"
How does the use of an **adage** contribute to Lady Macbeth's argument?

RHETORIC | Expression

The student expresses in his or her own words the Central One Idea with supporting details.

RHETORICAL EXPRESSION:

To be answered in your Literature Notebook in preparation for your essay.

1. In 1-2 paragraphs, **summarize** the events of Act 1.
2. Write the **Central One Idea** of Act 1 in a precise, eloquent sentence.
3. List two or three points that **support** your determination of the Central One Idea.
4. Write a **lead** (1-2 sentences) that grabs the reader's attention—such as a *quote, question, startling fact or statistic, scenario, piece of dialogue, etc.*
5. Write an **amplification/importance** (1-2 sentences) that explains why your thesis is important in a larger or more universal sense.

◆ **Central Quote:** Choose a quote from anywhere in Act 1 that you think best embodies the Central One Idea and copy it down.

1 Write the Central One Idea as expressed by the teacher.

ESSAY OPTION

Choose a topic below and respond with a 3-5 paragraph essay that includes an Introduction with a clear thesis; a Body with organized, logical, and specific support of the thesis; and a Conclusion that recapitulates the thesis and supporting points in a fresh way, and closes with an amplification—why the thesis is important in a larger or more universal sense.

The essay should feature appropriate tone, voice, and point of view; correct grammar, usage, and mechanics; a variety of sentence structures enhanced by subordination and parallelism; a balance of general and specific detail; and enhanced rhetorical effect through transition words, appropriate diction, strong verbs, descriptive adjectives, and other rhetorical devices.

Note: Some of these prompts tend toward a shorter essay, and some toward a longer. Check with your teacher to see what

her husband's letter, informing her of his encounter with the Witches, their prophecies, and the fulfillment of the first, his being made Thane of Cawdor. She gladly receives Macbeth when he comes home, and they begin to scheme about hosting King Duncan. King Duncan arrives with his sons, Banquo, and other noblemen to Macbeth's castle in Inverness. Feeling joyful, peaceful, and secure, they interpret a small bird they see outside the castle as a good omen. Appearing as the perfect hostess, Lady Macbeth greets them and offers them gracious hospitality. The scene is rife with dramatic irony. The scene opens with Macbeth alone, battling his conscience over whether to commit the murder. He decides it should not be done. Lady Macbeth enters the scene, applies so much pressure on him, and explains her detailed plan—he finally relents to enact the plan.

2. Answers will vary.
3. Support for the Teacher's Central One Idea:
 - Macbeth wrestles with whether to commit this deed throughout Act 1.
 - Macbeth is aware that the Witches have tempted and lured him toward desiring the kingship.
 - Macbeth's inner conflict escalates throughout the act until scene 7, when it reaches its zenith. Here Macbeth has his most embattled crisis of conscience. His conclusion is, of course, that he has nothing but his own vaulting ambition to spur him on.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

◆ **Central Quote:** Answers will vary. Here is an example:

*"But here upon this bank and shoal of time—
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have judgment here ...*

*... I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself,
And falls on th' other."*

– 1.7.6-8; 25-28

1 **COI Particular:** Having a crisis of conscience, Macbeth weighs the consequences, in this life and in eternal life, of killing King Duncan. He acknowledges that he has no reason or motive to commit the deed except his "vaulting ambition."

COI Abstract: In the course of life, each one of us will have a major crisis of conscience: we must decide what is right and what is wrong, and make a choice.

length he or she suggests. Both short essays (1 page) and long essays (2-4 pages) are useful and helpful, depending on the intent and purpose.

1. It is quite obvious that Shakespeare wished to honor King James I with the play *Macbeth*. For playwrights, flattering the monarch in their writings was a common and appropriate activity in the Elizabethan era. Write an essay showing how the play depicts various kings (including Banquo, etc.) in a positive way with the intention to honor King James I.
2. Write a personal narrative essay about a time when you had a crisis of conscience, where you deliberated between two actions, one right and the other wrong. Creatively tell the back-story that surrounds the crisis of conscience. Then reveal the choice you made, and how that choice has affected your life in some way.
3. It has been noted that Lady Macbeth had the strongest desire to kill King Duncan. Develop a thesis centered around Lady Macbeth, considering her motives, her character, and her desires. Write a character analysis essay on Lady Macbeth.
4. [Central One Idea] Use the Central One Idea of Act 1 as your thesis, and support it with some evidence from your reading of Act 1, your work in the study guide, and/or outside research.
5. [Open] Write an essay in which you analyze an aspect of Act 1 that is of import to you, such as a particular theme, character, setting, element of plot, dialogue, symbol, or other literary or rhetorical motif.
6. [Teacher] Essay prompt.