

Macbeth Anticipation Guide

"Double, Double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble."

These questions are designed to encourage you to begin thinking about the conflicts and themes we will encounter as we read the play *Macbeth* and how they relate to our lives today.

1. What information about your future would you like to know? List at least three things. Explain why you would like to know each one.
2. Do you believe supernatural beings actually exist? Why or why not?
3. Do the ends justify the means, i.e., is it OK to do something wrong in order to get what you want?
4. If you believe the rulers of your country are destroying the country, should you try to overthrow the rulers? Or does patriotism requires obedience to the government? Explain.
5. Is success worth any price you have to pay?
6. Describe a situation in which you were tempted to do something you knew was wrong. Did you listen to your conscience?
7. Think about a time when you had a feeling that something was about to happen. Describe the situation, and tell what happened next.
8. What is the difference between greed and ambition?
9. Do you believe the saying "What goes around comes around"? Why or why not?
10. Think about a time you acted in anger. What made you angry, and what did you do? Do you think it would have been better to wait until your anger cooled?
11. You probably wouldn't break your moral code (what you believe is right or wrong) for a stranger, but would you do it for a loved one?
12. If someone prophesized that you would become someone of importance (i.e., President, Pope, Homecoming Queen/King, etc.), would you wait for it to happen, or would you try to make it happen? Explain.
13. Which is most important: loyalty to your family, loyalty to the government, or commitment to principles?
14. Do you believe everyone is in a personal battle of good versus evil? Why or why not?
15. How do you decide what is good and what is evil?
16. Do you believe that fate directs our lives or that our actions alone determine our circumstances?
17. How would you define "guilt"? Give an example to illustrate your definition.
18. How would you define "honor"? Give an example to illustrate your definition.

Prediction Paragraph 1

Act I, Scene IV

1. What is Malcolm's report?
2. What are the King's comments in response to Malcolm?
3. What is Macbeth's response?
4. What is the King's action?
5. What are Macbeth's thoughts?
6. What is the King's comment to Banquo?

Act I, Scene V

1. What does Macbeth send to Lady Macbeth? Why?
2. How does Lady Macbeth describe Macbeth?
3. What news do the messengers give?
4. What is Lady Macbeth's desire?

Act I, Scene VI

1. What is ironic about this scene?

Act I, Scene VII

1. What is Macbeth's debate (internal conflict)?
2. What is Lady Macbeth's role?
3. What is Macbeth's decision?
4. What clothing metaphor is used in this scene?