

Lesson 1

Macbeth

Act I

Lesson 1 Directions

Pre-Reading

1. Preview (read through) the study questions for *Macbeth* Act I: i-iv.
2. Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet for *Macbeth* Act I: i-iv.

Reading

1. Read *Macbeth* Act I: i-iv.
2. Keep your study questions in mind as you read.

Post-Reading

1. Answer all of the study guide questions for Act I: i-iv.
2. Complete the Reader Response Assignment for Act I: i-iv.

Vocabulary Act I Part I

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the bold words mean in the space provided. The line where the word is located is noted: (Act.scene.line #).

1. For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--
Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valor's **minion** carved out his passage (I.i.18)
Til he faced the slave, ...
2. Into the air, and what seemed **corporal** melted (I.iii.81)
As breath into the wind. ...
3. New honors came upon him,
Like our strange garments, **cleave** not to their mold (I.iii.144)
But with the aid of use.
4. I'll be myself the **harbinger**, and make joyful (I.iv.45)
The hearing of my wife with your approach,
So humbly take my leave.
5. Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear,
And **chastise** with the valor of my tongue (I.v.28)
All that impedes thee from the golden round ...
6. To **beguile** the time, (I.v.64)
Look like the time, bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue. Look like the innocent flower
But be the serpent under 't.

Vocabulary Act I Page 2

7. And pity, like a naked newborn babe,
Striding the blast, or Heaven's cherubin horsed
Upon the sightless **couriers** of the air, (I.vii.23)
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind.

Vocabulary Act I Part II

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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|--------------|--|
| 1. minion | A. of or relating to the body |
| 2. corporal | B. one that indicates or foreshadows what is to come |
| 3. cleave | C. to punish |
| 4. harbinger | D. to pass time pleasantly |
| 5. chastise | E. messengers |
| 6. beguile | F. to adhere, cling, or stick fast |
| 7. couriers | G. an obsequious follower or dependent |

Study Questions Act I

1. What is the point of the first scene literally and in reference to the whole play?
2. What does Duncan call Macbeth when he hears Macbeth has defeated Macdonwald?
3. Who is sentenced to death?
4. What do the witches predict in I.iii for Macbeth? For Banquo?
5. What news does Ross bring Macbeth?
6. Banquo, like Macbeth, is surprised that the witches have predicted Macbeth's new title. He is, however, leery. What does he say about the motives of the "instruments of darkness"?

Study Questions Act I Page 2

7. Malcolm describes Cawdor's last moments before execution. What is Duncan's reply?

8. Macbeth says, "Stars, hide your fires,/Let not light see my black and deep desires." What are Macbeth's desires?

9. After Lady Macbeth reads the letter, what does she tell us is her opinion of Macbeth, and how does she plan to help him?

10. What is Lady Macbeth's "prayer" to the spirits after she learns Duncan is coming?

11. What advice does Lady Macbeth give Macbeth when he arrives home?

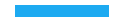


Study Questions Act I Page 3

12. What are Macbeth's arguments to himself against killing Duncan?

13. What arguments does Lady Macbeth use to convince Macbeth to commit the murder?

14. What is Lady Macbeth's plan?



Reader Response Entry Act I

In the space below, write a substantial response to Act I of the play. It could be your thoughts on one of the following: an idea presented, an event, a character's actions or attitude, a topic related in some way to something presented in this section of the play, a response to a particular passage that stood out to you as you read, or you could write a creative response like a poem or song lyrics as long as it is relevant in some way to what you have just read.