**Macbeth: Act IV Reading and Study Guide**

**I. Vocabulary:** Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play. Also, be prepared to be quizzed on these words.

- **thrice:** three times
- **conjure:** to summon up using supernatural power
- **potent:** powerful
- **pernicious:** destructive; hurtful
- **laudable:** praiseworthy
- **redress:** set right; correct
- **hoodwink:** trick; deceive
- **avarice:** greediness
- **concord:** harmony; peace; agreement
- **integrity:** honesty; possessing firm principles

**II. Background Info:**

- **Lucifer:** Luc (light) + fer (carry) – leader of the rebellion of angels. Referred to as “brightest” in *Macbeth.*

**III. Literary Terms:** these will be the terms that we use to discuss this act. Please know them for our discussion and your tests and quizzes.

- **motif:** a recurring object, concept, or structure in a piece of literature. Some motifs from *Macbeth*: blood, visions, clothing metaphor, planting / weed metaphor.

**IV. Questions:** answer the following questions while you read to check your comprehension.

*Scene 1:*

1. When the witches are chanting “Double, double toil and trouble; / Fire burn, and cauldron bubble,” what are they doing? **Casting a spell for Macbeth**

2. What is the “something wicked” that “this way comes”? **Macbeth**
3. What does the first apparition tell Macbeth? *(armed head)* Beware Macduff

4. What does the second apparition tell Macbeth? *(bloody child)* No person woman born can hurt Macbeth

5. What does the third apparition tell Macbeth? *(child with crown and holding a tree)* Macbeth will not be vanquished until Birnam wood goes up Dunsinane Hill (the forest by Macbeth's house moves 12 miles!)

6. What is the one more thing that Macbeth wants to know? Will Fleance be king?

7. What do the witches show Macbeth in response to his last request? Eight kings that look like Fleance/Banquo; the last is holding a mirror that shows more down the line. Banquo is pointing to his posterity and smiling.

8. What does Macbeth say he will do to Macduff? Seize his castle and kill his whole family/everyone in it

Scene 2:

9. What reason does Lady Macduff give for why Macduff must not love her and their children? He lacks the instinct to protect them.

10. What does Lady Macduff tell her son about Macduff? He is dead

11. What reason does Macduff’s son give for why the liars and swearers are fools? Traitors outnumber honest men

12. What does the messenger tell Lady Macduff? Warns her something deadly is coming

13. What happens at the end of this scene? Macduff’s family is murdered

Scene 3:

14. What does Malcolm suspect might be Macduff’s motivation? Maybe deceiving Malcolm to gain Macbeth's favor

15. What does Malcolm ask Macduff about his family? How could he leave his family without protection?

16. What is the first reason Malcolm gives when he argues that he would be a bigger tyrant than Macbeth? He has many vices; it will make Macbeth seem innocent

17. What does Macduff say he can do for his voluptuousness? His lustfulness can be satisfied by many women dedicating themselves to the king.

18. What is the second reason Malcolm gives for why he wouldn’t be a good king? Greed/Avarice

19. What is Macduff’s final response to Malcolm’s description of himself? There is no hope for Scotland
20. What does Malcolm tell Macduff about the things he said? Takes them back and tells him it was all a test to see where his loyalty lies.

21. What does Malcolm say King Edward is able to do? Heal the disease of Scrofula (evil).

22. At first, what does Ross say about Macduff’s family? His family is well.

23. What has England lent Malcolm? Siward (leader) and his 10,000 man army.

24. What does Ross finally tell Macduff? His family was killed.

25. What “medicine” does Malcolm say they should take to cure the “deadly grief”? Revenge.