Macbeth Act IV Study Guide

Working in a small group, answer the following questions as completely as possible, including properly cited (IV.iii.13-16) evidence when required. Write your answers on your OWN notebook paper. Only one set of responses needs to be submitted.

1. What is the result—or effect—of each of the following events? Use quotations to explain your answer.

1. Macbeth’s second visit to the Three Witches
2. Malcolm tests Macduff
3. Macduff’s family is murdered

2. How does Macbeth react when he encounters the apparitions? What does his reaction reveal about how he has changed?

3. Compare Lady Macbeth to Lady Macduff. How are the characters similar? How do they differ? Cite quotations (one for each character) to support your ideas.

4. Lady Macduff and Malcolm both question Macduff’s motives for fleeing from Scotland. Think about the crimes Macbeth has already committed. Why might the nature and manner of these crimes have led Macduff to believe that his family would be safe at his castle. Include at least 2 reasons.

5. For what purpose is Scene 3, Act 4 included in the play’s structure by Shakespeare? What does this conversation reveal about Malcolm, MacDuff and others attitudes towards Macbeth?

6. Some believe that knowledge is power. When might this be true? When might it not be true? Provide 2 specific examples from the play to prove or disprove this belief.

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