

Act 1 Study Guide - Macbeth

Identify the speaker(s) and what is being said. If possible, also identify who is being spoken to, and *about whom* s/he is speaking.

1. **Fair is foul, and foul is fair:**

Hover through the fog and filthy air.

2. For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--

Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave;
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

3. What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

4. **All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!**

5. Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none...

6. Were such things here as we do speak about?

Or have we eaten on the insane root
That takes the reason prisoner?

7. The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me

In borrow'd robes?

8. But 'tis strange:

And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's
In deepest consequence. _____

9. Two truths are told,

As happy prologues to the swelling act
of the imperial theme...

If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,
Against the use of nature? _____

10. If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me,
Without my stir. _____

11. There's no art

To find the mind's construction in the face:
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust. _____

12. We will establish our estate upon

Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter
The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must
Not unaccompanied invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deservers. _____

13. The rest is labour, which is not used for you:

I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave. _____

14. The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. **Stars, hide your fires;**
Let not light see my black and deep desires _____

15. What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it: _____

16. The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. **Come, you spirits**
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;
Stop up the access and passage to remorse

17. ... bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: **look like the innocent flower,**
But be the serpent under't. **He that's coming**
Must be provided for: _____

18. This castle hath a pleasant seat; **the air**
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses. _____

19. ... this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust;
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,

Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that **his virtues**
Will plead like angels... _____

20. I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
And falls on the other. _____

21. We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
... I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none. _____

22. I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this. _____

23. But **screw your courage to the sticking-place**,
And we'll not fail. _____

24. Will it not be received,
When we have mark'd with blood those sleepy two
Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,
That they have done't? _____

Find one example each of: Allusion/Apostrophe/Aside/Dramatic Irony
/Foreshadowing/Metaphor/Paradox/Simile/Verbal Irony