

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Act I

Scene i

1. To be effective the opening scene of a play must accomplish a variety of purposes. Explain the different functions served by this first scene.
2. Define and locate an example of the following early on in *Macbeth* [scenes i-ii]:
 - a) paradox
 - b) pathetic fallacy
 - c) imagery
 - d) irony

Scene ii

3. What do we learn about the following:
 - a) Duncan
 - b) Macdonwald
 - c) Sweno
 - d) Macbeth
 - e) The Thane of Cawdor

Scene iii

4. What are the witches' prophecies for both Macbeth and Banquo?
5.
 - a) How is one of the prophecies fulfilled? What is ironic about this?
 - b) Using the map, locate the areas that Macbeth is now responsible for. Label and colour these sections. With a partner: brainstorm a list of 10 different elements a thane might be responsible for. Rank his three most important / challenging tasks.

Scene iv

6. Explain how the following are significant:
 - a) Duncan naming Malcolm his successor.
 - b) Duncan deciding to visit Inverness.

Scene v

7. What is the purpose of a soliloquy? What does Lady Macbeth's soliloquy show about her character?
8. What will Lady Macbeth try to convince her husband of? How will she do this? With a partner, role-play a brief discussion between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth upon his return. Be prepared to share this with the class. Alternatively, write a 150-word blog entry that Lady Macbeth could potentially write to describe her feelings and plans as she prepares to confront her husband.

