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Read "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act II, Scenes i-ii" before answering the questions that follow.

from
The Tragedy of Macbeth
Act II, Scenes i-ii
by William Shakespeare

1 *Dramatis Personae*

MACBETH, general of the King's army

LADY MACBETH

BANQUO, general of the King's army

FLEANCE, son to Banquo

2 *[Court of Macbeth's castle.]*

3 *[Enter Banquo, and Fleance bearing a torch before him.]*

4 **BANQUO:** How goes the night, boy?

5 **FLEANCE:** The moon is down; I have not heard the clock.

6 **BANQUO:** And she goes down at twelve.

7 **FLEANCE:** I take't, 'tis later, sir.

8 **BANQUO:** Hold, take my sword, There's husbandry¹ in heaven,
Their candles are all out. Take thee that too.

9 *[Gives him his belt and dagger.]*

**10 A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep. Merciful powers,
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose!**

11 *[Enter Macbeth and Servant with a torch.]*

**12 Give me my sword.
Who's there?**

13 **MACBETH:** A friend.

- 14 **BANQUO:** What, sir, not yet at rest? the King's a-bed
He hath been in unusual pleasure, and
Sent forth great largess to your offices,
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess, and shut up
In measureless content.
- 15 **MACBETH:** Being unprepar'd,
Our will became the servant to defect,
Which else should free have wrought.
- 16 **BANQUO:** All's well.
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters²:
To you they have show'd some truth.
- 17 **MACBETH:** I think not of them:
Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,
We would spend it in some words upon that business,
If you would grant the time.
- 18 **BANQUO:** At your kind'st leisure.
- 19 **MACBETH:** If you shall cleave to my consent³ , when 'tis,
It shall make honor for you.
- 20 **BANQUO:** So I lose none
In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchis'd⁴ and allegiance clear,
I shall be counsell'd.⁵
- 21 **MACBETH:** Good repose the while!
- 22 [*Exeunt Banquo and Fleance.*]
- 23 **BANQUO:** Thanks, sir; the like to you!
- 24 **MACBETH:** Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.
- 25 [*Exit Servant.*]

26 Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed⁶ brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshal'st⁷ me the way I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use,
Mine eyes are made the fools o' th' other senses
Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still;
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings⁸, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's⁹ ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou [sure] and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which [way they] walk, for fear
The very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

27 [*A bell rings.*]

28 I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

29 [*Exit.*]

Scene ii

30 [*The same.*]

31 [*Enter Lady Macbeth.*]

- 32 **LADY MACBETH:** That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold;
What hath quench'd them hath given me fire. Hark! Peace!
It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman¹⁰,
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:
The doors are open and the surfeited grooms¹¹
Do mock their charge with snores, I have drugg'd their possets¹²,
That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live or die.
- 33 **MACBETH:** [*Within.*] Who's there? What ho?
- 34 **LADY MACBETH:** Alack, I am afraid they have awak'd,
And 'tis not done; th' attempt, and not the deed,
Confounds us. hark! I laid their daggers ready,
He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't.
- 35 [*Enter Macbeth.*]
- 36 My husband!
- 37 **MACBETH:** I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?
- 38 **LADY MACBETH:** I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.
Did not you speak?
- 39 **MACBETH:** When?
- 40 **LADY MACBETH:** Now.
- 41 **MACBETH:** As I descended?
- 42 **LADY MACBETH:** Ay.
- 43 **MACBETH:** Hark! Who lies i' the second chamber?
- 44 **LADY MACBETH:** Donalbain.
- 45 **MACBETH:** This is a sorry sight.
- 46 [*Looking on his hands.*]
- 47 **LADY MACBETH:** A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.
- 48 **MACBETH:** There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one cried "Murder!"
That they did wake each other: I stood and heard them;
But they did say their prayers, and address'd them
Again to sleep.
- 49 **LADY MACBETH:** There are two lodg'd together.

- 50 **MACBETH:** One cried "God bless us!" and "Amen" the other,
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands.
Listening their fear, I could not say "Amen,"
When they did say "God bless us!"
- 51 **LADY MACBETH:** Consider it not so deeply.
- 52 **MACBETH:** But wherefore could not I pronounce "Amen"?
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'
Stuck in my throat.
- 53 **LADY MACBETH:** These deeds must not be thought
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.
- 54 **MACBETH:** Methought I heard a voice cry, 'Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murder sleep' — the innocent sleep,
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labor's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast.
- 55 **LADY MACBETH:** What do you mean?
- 56 **MACBETH:** Still is cried, 'Sleep no more!'
- 57 **LADY MACBETH:** Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,
You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brain-sickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there. Go carry them, and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.
- 58 **MACBETH:** I'll go no more.
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again I dare not.
- 59 **LADY MACBETH:** Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures; 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt. [*Exit. Knock within.*]

- 60 **MACBETH:** Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appalls me?
What hands are here? Hah! they pluck out mine eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No; this is my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine¹³,
Making the green one red.
- 61 [*Enter Lady Macbeth.*]
- 62 **LADY MACBETH:** My hands are of your color, but I shame
To wear a heart so white. [*Knock.*] I hear a knocking
At the south entry. Retire we to our chamber.
A little water clears us of this deed;
How easy is it then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended. [*Knock.*]
Hark, more knocking.
Get on your night-gown, lest occasion call us
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.
- 63 **MACBETH:** To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself. [*Knock.*]
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

¹ *husbandry*: economy

² *three weird sisters*: three witches

³ *cleave to my consent*: support my cause

⁴ *franchis'd*: free from guilt

⁵ *I ... counsell'd*: I am willing to listen.

⁶ *heat-oppressed*: fevered

⁷ *marshal'st*: lead

⁸ *Pale Hecate's offerings*: rites to Hecate, goddess of witchcraft

⁹ *Tarquin*: the ravisher of Lucrece, from the classical poem *The Rape of Lucrece*

¹⁰ *fatal bellman*: night watchman who rang a bell at midnight outside the cells of prisoners scheduled for execution in the morning. Screech owls were thought to presage death.

¹¹ *surfeited grooms*: servants overcome by drink

¹² *possets*: drinks made with wine and hot milk

¹³ *The ... incarnadine*: The multitude of seas turn red.

Use "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act II, Scenes i-ii" to answer questions 1-11.

1 Expectation: E.1(A)

Read this excerpt from paragraph 14.

BANQUO ...the King's a-bed
He hath been in unusual pleasure, and
Sent forth great largess to your offices,
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess...

The word *largess* comes from the Latin word *largus*, which means "abundant." Based on the meaning of the root word, what does *largess* mean in this excerpt?

- A** Obligation
- B** Pleasure
- C** Greatness
- D** Bounty

2 Expectation: E.7(A)

According to Lady Macbeth, the "painted devil" mentioned in paragraph 59 is to be feared no more than —

- F** "the sleeping and the dead."
- G** "the eye of childhood."
- H** the need to "gild the faces of the grooms."
- J** the daggers that "gild the faces of the grooms."

3 Expectation: E.12(A)

What is the most important event not shown onstage?

- A** Lady Macbeth ringing the bell
- B** The death of Duncan
- C** The servants being smeared with blood
- D** Banquo's misgivings about Macbeth

4 Expectation: E.12(D)

Which best describes the change in tone from paragraphs 31 through paragraph 34?

- F** From apprehensive to satisfied
- G** From merry to wistful
- H** From despairing to serene
- J** From confident to fearful

5 Expectation: E.1(B)

Why is the multiple meaning of the word *firm-set* in paragraph 26 important to the selection?

- A** It describes both the solid earth and provides a sharp contrast with the nightmares Macbeth envisions.
- B** It refers to both the solid support Macbeth needs from the earth and to the fear that the earth is crumbling beneath him.
- C** It refers to both Macbeth's determination to complete his task and to his need to bury his knowledge of it in the earth.
- D** It describes both the way Macbeth feels and emphasizes his own ghostlike movement.

6 Expectation: E.4(A)

What is one result of Macbeth's tragic downfall?

- F** He fails to realize that others will criticize his actions.
- G** He tries to help his guests understand his actions.
- H** He tries to help Lady Macbeth to accept what he has done.
- J** He cannot bear to think of what he has done.

7 Expectation: E.4 Fig. 19(B)

How does Lady Macbeth's view of water in paragraph 57 differ from Macbeth's view of it in paragraph 60?

- A** She views it as a cleanser, but he believes that seas of water will be required to wash away the evidence of his deed.
- B** She views it as the practical way to remove traces of blood, but he knows that no amount of water will do that.
- C** She believes it will remove the blood from his hands, and he thinks that oceans of water will be necessary to clean his hands.
- D** She believes it will cleanse his hands, and he is afraid of the amount of water that will be needed to do so.

8 Expectation: E.2 Fig. 19(B)

Which quotation most strongly suggests that Macbeth is having some trouble distinguishing reality from illusion?

- F** *I see thee still;/And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,/Which was not so before.*
- G** *I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.*
- H** *If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis,/It shall make honor for you.*
- J** *There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one cried "Murder!"/That they did wake each other: I stood and heard them;*

9 Expectation: E.1(D)

The word *Exeunt* is used in the stage direction in paragraph 22. Given its context and the action in the scene, what is the meaning of *exeunt*?

- A** Go across the stage
- B** Go upstage
- C** Go offstage
- D** Go onstage

10 Expectation: E.4 Fig. 19(B)

In paragraph 27, the bell that rings —

- F** announces to Macbeth his own death.
- G** reminds Macbeth of the need to warn Duncan.
- H** reminds Macbeth of the division between heaven and hell.
- J** tells Macbeth to go to Duncan's room.

11 Expectation: E.1(C)

The use of the word *confounds* in paragraph 34 indicates Lady Macbeth's —

- A** determination to help her husband achieve his goal.
- B** belief that her husband and her father are too much alike.
- C** uncertainty about whether she wants her husband to succeed.
- D** fear that her husband's failure has destroyed them.



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Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Reading Selection 1				
1	1	Supporting	E.1(A)	D
2	2	Supporting	E.7(A)	F
3	2	Supporting	E.12(A)	B
4	2	Supporting	E.12(D)	J
5	1	Readiness	E.1(B)	A
6	2	Supporting	E.4(A)	J
7	2	Supporting	E.4 Fig. 19(B)	B
8	2	Supporting	E.2 Fig. 19(B)	F
9	1	Supporting	E.1(D)	C
10	2	Supporting	E.4 Fig. 19(B)	J
11	1	Supporting	E.1(C)	D

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