**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Macbeth Act III Summary**

Directions: Use this summary to complete the Guided Notes for Act III of *Macbeth*.

**Summary: Act 3, scene 1**

In the royal palace at Forres, Banquo paces and thinks about the coronation of [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_](http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/character/macbeth/) and the prophecies of the weird sisters. The witches foretold that Macbeth would be king and that Banquo’s line would eventually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the throne. If the first prophecy came true, Banquo thinks, feeling the stirring of ambition, why not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Macbeth enters, attired as king. He is followed by [Lady Macbeth](http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/character/lady-macbeth/), now his queen, and the court. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to attend the feast they will host that night. Banquo accepts their invitation and says that he plans to go for a ride on his horse for the afternoon. Macbeth mentions that they should discuss the problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Donalbain. The brothers have fled from Scotland and may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against his crown.

Banquo departs, and Macbeth dismisses his court. He is left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the hall with a single servant, to whom he speaks about some men who have come to see him. Macbeth asks if the men are still waiting and orders that they be fetched. Once the servant has gone, Macbeth begins a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He muses on the subject of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, reflecting that his old friend is the only man in Scotland whom he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He notes that if the witches’ prophecy is true, his will be a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” by which he means that he will not have an heir (3.1.62). The murder of Duncan, which weighs so heavily on his conscience, may have simply cleared the way for Banquo’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to overthrow Macbeth’s own family.

The servant reenters with Macbeth’s two visitors. Macbeth reminds the two men, who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_he has hired, of a conversation he had with them the day before, in which he chronicled the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Banquo had done them in the past. He asks if they are angry and manly enough to take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Banquo. They reply that they are, and Macbeth accepts their promise that they will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his former friend. Macbeth reminds the murderers that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must be killed along with his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and tells them to wait within the castle for his command.

**Summary: Act 3, scene 2**

Elsewhere in the castle, Lady Macbeth expresses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and sends a servant to fetch her husband. Macbeth enters and tells his wife that he too is discontented, saying that his mind is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (3.2.37). He feels that the business that they began by killing Duncan is not yet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because there are still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the throne that must be eliminated. Macbeth tells his wife that he has planned “a deed of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” for Banquo and Fleance and urges her to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and kind to Banquo during the evening’s feast, in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their next victim into a false sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3.2.45)

**Summary: Act 3, scene 3**

It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the two murderers, now joined by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, linger in a wooded park outside the palace. Banquo and Fleance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on their horses and dismount. They light a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the murderers set upon them. The murderers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Banquo, who dies urging his son to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to avenge his death. One of the murderers extinguishes the torch, and in the darkness Fleance \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The murderers leave with Banquo’s body to find Macbeth and tell him what has happened.

#### Summary: Act 3, scene 4

Onstage stands a table \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a feast. [Macbeth](http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/character/macbeth/) and [Lady Macbeth](http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/macbeth/character/lady-macbeth/) enter as king and queen, followed by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whom they bid welcome. As Macbeth walks among the company, the first murderer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the doorway. Macbeth speaks to him for a moment, learning that Banquo is dead and that Fleance has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The news of Fleance’s escape angers Macbeth—if only Fleance had died, he muses, his throne would have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Instead, “the worm that’s fled / Hath nature that in time will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (3.4.28–29).

Returning to his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Macbeth goes to sit at the head of the royal table but finds Banquo’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sitting in his chair. Horror-struck, Macbeth speaks to the ghost, which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the rest of the company. Lady Macbeth makes excuses for her husband, saying that he occasionally has such “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” and that the guests should simply \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his behavior. Then she speaks to Macbeth, questioning his manhood and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him to snap out of his trance. The ghost disappears, and Macbeth recovers, telling his company: “I have a strange \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which is nothing / To those that know me” (3.4.85–86). As he offers a toast to company, however, Banquo’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and shocks Macbeth into further reckless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Continuing to make excuses for her husband, Lady Macbeth sends the alarmed guests out of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the ghost vanishes again.

Macbeth mutters that “blood will have blood” and tells Lady Macbeth that he has heard from a servant-spy that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intends to keep away from court, behavior that verges on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3.4.121). He says that he will visit the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ again tomorrow in the hopes of learning more about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and about who may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against him. He resolves to do whatever is necessary to keep his throne, declaring: “I am in blood / Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o’er” (3.4.135–137). Lady Macbeth says that he needs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and they retire to their bed.

#### Summary: Act 3, scene 5

Upon the stormy heath, the witches meet with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the goddess of witchcraft. Hecate scolds them for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the business of Macbeth without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her but declares that she will take over as supervisor of the mischief. She says that when Macbeth comes the next day, as they know he will, they must summon visions and spirits whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will fill him with a false sense of security and “draw him on to his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (3.5.29). Hecate vanishes, and the witches go to prepare their charms.

#### Summary: Act 3, scene 6

That night, somewhere in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Lennox walks with another lord, discussing what has happened to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ murder has been officially blamed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who has fled. Nevertheless, both men suspect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whom they call a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” in the murders of Duncan and Banquo. The lord tells Lennox that Macduff has gone to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where he will join Malcolm in pleading with England’s King \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. News of these plots has prompted Macbeth to prepare for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Lennox and the lord express their hope that Malcolm and Macduff will be successful and that their actions can save \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Act 3 Quick Quiz**

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1. What does Banquo wonder about the witches’ prophecy?

1. If perhaps they were wrong and he might become king one day
2. If there is any room for free will in the world or if all is fate
3. If his descendants will really become kings
4. If he could bribe or threaten them into changing the future

2. How does Macbeth feel about Banquo?

1. He fears that Banquo and his sons will cut short his reign.
2. He believes Banquo to be a loyal friend.
3. He thinks Banquo is planning on murdering him.
4. In his madness, he forgets who Banquo is.

3. What does Macbeth hire three men to do?

1. Protect him from assassins
2. Kill Macduff and his family
3. Find the witches so he can talk to them again
4. Kill Banquo and his son

4. Does Lady Macbeth think this murder of Banquo and his son are necessary?

1. No, but she’ll help him if he does.
2. Yes, she thinks the business won’t be done until they are both dead.
3. She’s not sure and wants to err on the side of caution by killing them.
4. She opposes it and threatens to stop Macbeth if he tries.

5. Do the assassins succeed in killing Banquo and Fleance?

1. Yes, they kill both of them.
2. They kill Banquo but Fleance escapes.
3. No, they both escape and vow revenge.
4. They kill Fleance but Banquo escapes.

6. How does Macbeth feel about Fleance getting away unharmed?

1. It confirms his suspicion that the witches are lying to him.
2. It’s fine because he can blame Banquo’s murder on Fleance.
3. It leaves him vulnerable.
4. It’s not such a big deal.

7. What does Macbeth see when he enters the banquet?

1. The bloody ghost of Banquo
2. The bloody ghost of Duncan
3. A giant falcon sitting on the windowsill
4. Duncan alive and well and eating at his table

8. How does Lady Macbeth explain Macbeth’s odd behavior?

1. She says he has been poisoned.
2. She says he is sleepwalking.
3. She says he suffered a shock during a fight to save Banquo from three murderers.
4. She says not to worry because he’s had strange visions since childhood.

9. What does Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft, plan for Macbeth?

1. To lure him into a cavern and have the witches kill him with a potion
2. To give him prophecies that say the opposite of the ones he first received
3. To show him visions that will falsely make him feel secure
4. To appeal to his conscience and make him fully understand his guilt

10. Why does Macduff go to England?

1. To ask King Edward for aid in fighting Macbeth
2. To hide from Macbeth
3. To betray and abandon his wife and children
4. To talk to the Prince of DenmarkBottom of Form