

ENGLISH

TOPIC : MACBETH

ACT I, SCENE I

1. 2nd witch proposes to meet Macbeth upon the heath.
2. Graymalkin : A little grey cat. Favourite of the 1st witch.
3. Paddock : A toad. Favourite of the 2nd witch.
4. The favourite of the 3rd witch is HARPIER. It is not mentioned in ACT I but in ACT IV.
5. “Fair is foul and foul is fair...”- Said by all the three witches.

SCENE II

6. “What bloody man is that.”- Duncan here enquires about the man. He is the sergeant who reports the state of affairs of the battle between the rebel Norwegian Lord and Duncan’s army. The Sergeant against the efforts of the rebel to captivate Malcolm.
7. “Hail, brave friend.”- The brave friend is the Sergeant. Malcolm welcomes him.
8. Broil – means battle.
9. “Say to the king the knowledge of the broil...”- Malcolm asks the Sergeant to report to the king the latest state of affairs of the battle.
10. “Doubtful it stood/ As two spent swimmers...choke their art.” The Bleeding Sergeant reports here the state of affairs of the battle. Here in this simile the

two exhausted armies of Scotland and Norway are compared to two tired swimmers, who are drowning to each other.

11. "...worthy to be a rebel...the multiplying villainies of nature do swarm upon him."- Macdonwald is fit to be a rebel because ever increasing villainies of nature crowd upon his mind.
12. "Fortune on his damned quarrel smiling / Shoed like a rebel's whore..."- Fortune favoured the rebel first and appeared to be the mistress of the reel.
13. "but all is too weak/ For Macbeth...fixed his head upon the battlements."- in spite of the favour of the Fortune to Macdonwald, Macbeth defeated them and fixed the head of the battle upon the walls of the castle cutting him from the navel to the jaws.
14. Valour's Minion- means favourite of valour. Here it is Macbeth.
15. "As sparrows eagles or the hare the lion."- To the question of Duncan whether his generals were frightened at the attack of the rebels, the Bleeding Captain says that they were frightened as eagles are frightened by sparrows and lion by hare. Here Macbeth is the eagle and the Norwegian lord is the lion.
16. "they were as canons overcharged with double cracks..."- They are here Macbeth and Banquo. The Sergeant says that the Generals were like canon loaded with double charge of shot.
17. "they meant to bathe in reeking wounds/ Or memorize another Golgotha."- Galgotha- Place of skulls. The sergeant says that the two generals seemed to bathe in the blood of the enemies or to create a new field of skulls.
18. "...they smack of honour both." – Duncan says this. Here 'They' refers to the words spoken by the Sergeant. His words are worthy as his wounds are.
19. Fife: The place where the battle was being fought.

20. “where the Norwegian banners the flout the sky and fan our people cold. Norway himself with terrible numbers / Assisted by the most disloyal traitor, the Thane of Cawdor began a dismal conflict...”- here Rosse reports the state of affairs of the battle. ‘THE DISLOYAL TRAITOR’ here refers to the THANE OF CAWDOR. The King of Norway began a terrible fight with the assistance of the thane of Cawdor.
21. “Till Bellona’s bridegroom, lapped in proof/ confronted ...”- Bellona is the Roman goddess of war. Macbeth is called he favourite of Bellona for his bravery.
22. ‘Great happiness.’ - Duncan says this. His happiness is caused by the news of the victory of his generals.
23. ‘Go pronounce his present death/ and with his former title greet Macbeth.’- Duncan says this to Rosse. He asks Rosse to confer upon Macbeth the title Thane of Cawdor. By ‘his present death’ he speaks of the present Thane of Cawdor.
24. “Sweno, the Norway’s King, craves composition..”- Sweno was the king of Norway. He was dismayed at the attack of Duncan’s generals. So he asked for peace.
25. “What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.”- Verbal irony. “He’ refers to the present Thane of Cawdor. Because of his treachery the King rewarded Macbeth with the title of Thane of Cawdor.

SCENE- III

26. After ACT I, SCENE I in SCENE III again the Witches reappear
27. The 2nd Witch says she was killing swine. The 1st witch asked for chestnuts from a sailor’s wife who was chewing it. Her husband had gone to ALEPPO as the master of the ship TIGER. For not being given chestnuts, he will go

in disguise of a rat without a tail and he will do something dreadful to take revenge on her.

28. The 2nd witch says that she will assist her to take revenge by providing wind.
29. 'I will dry him drain as hay....sleep shall neither night or day...' - the 1st witch says this. 'Him' refers to the sailor. She will suck out his blood till he becomes dry like hay stalk. She will make him so miserable that he will not be able to sleep either by day or night. Though his ship cannot be drowned, it will be tossed in the tempest.
30. Macbeth first appears in Scene III. 3rd witch notices him.
31. "So foul and fair a day I have not seen." - First words of Macbeth . there is an unconscious connection between what he has said here and with the witches' utterance 'fair is foul, foul is fair.'
32. Forres: place in Scotland where Duncan's castle is situated.
33. Banquo first sees and addressed the witches.
34. "What are these, So withered and so wild in their attire/ That look not like the inhabitants of the earth." - Banquo says this about the witches. They look like women yet they had beards. They were wild in dress and did not look like the inhabitants of this earth.
35. "speak if you can" - Macbeth says this to the witches.
36. The 1st witch hails Macbeth as the Thane of Glamis. (By Sinel's death Macbeth has already been the Thane of Glamis.) 2nd witch hails him as the Thane of Cawdor. The 3rd witch addresses him as the future king of Scotland.
37. "Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear...he seems rapt withal." - Seeing Macbeth unsettled at the prophecy of the witches, Banquo says this to him.

38. “To me you speak not/If you can look into the seeds of time/ And say which grain will grow...” Banquo says this to the witches. Seeds of time means germs of future.
39. 1st witch prophesies Banquo that he will be lesser than Macbeth, and greater.
40. “Not so happy, yet much happier.”- The 2nd witch here prophesies Banquo.
41. “Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none”- the 3rd witch here prophesies Banquo.
42. “Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more.”- Macbeth here addresses the witches as imperfect speakers.
43. “The earth has bubbles as water has..”- This is how Banquo dismisses the witches.
44. “What seemed corporal / Melted as breath into the wind.”- Macbeth says this about the witches.
45. Rosse delivers the message to Macbeth that he has been given the title of the Thane of Cawdor.
46. “What can the devil speak true?”- Banquo is amazed here to see a part of the prophecy about Macbeth turning true so soon.
47. “Why do you dress me in borrowed robes?”- Macbeth says this . by ‘borrowed robes’ he means the title of the Thane of Cawdor.
48. “Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor: The greatest is behind.”- the greatest here refers to the prophecy of becoming the king of Scotland.
49. “to win us to our harm/ The instruments of Darkness tell us truths/ in us with honest trifles, to betray in deepest consequence.”- Banquo here warns Macbeth not to believe the witches. He calls the witches as agents of darkness. They win us with little things that come true and ultimately betray us in matters of grave consequence.

50. "Two truths are told/ As happy prologues to the swelling act of imperial theme."-the two truths here refer to Macbeth's becoming the Thane of Glamis and Thane of Cawdor. These two truths are prologues which mean in a drama introductions to the action. The swelling act of imperial theme refers to the climax of the possibility of his becoming the king.
51. "This supernatural soliciting cannot be ill; cannot be good, why hath it given me earnest success...if good why do I yield to that suggestion."- 'The supernatural soliciting' refers to the prophecy of the witches. It cannot be ill because it gives him an anticipation of success by beginning with the fulfilment of two prophecies. It cannot be good again because it yields him to the suggestion of killing Duncan for the fulfilment of the thought of becoming king.
52. "Present fears are less than horrible imaginings."- the horrible imaginings here refers to thought of murdering Duncan.
53. "New honours come upon him like strange garments, cleave not to their mould/ But with the aid of use."- Banquo says this. Dress imagery. Describes Macbeth's mental condition. Macbeth finds himself uncomfortable with the new title Thane of Cawdor just as new dress makes the wearer uncomfortable. Both will feel at ease with the passing of time.
54. "Give me your favour. My dull brain was wrought with things forgotten."- Macbeth says this to Banquo. 'Things forgotten' here refer to the prophecy of the witches. Actually he has not forgotten them.

SCENE IV

55. "There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face. He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust."- Duncan says this on being betrayed by the Thane of Cawdor on whom he built absolute trust. The line

means one cannot be judged from one's outward appearance because in most cases appearance proves deceptive. The speech is sauced with irony because Macbeth on whom he builds trust henceforth will also betray him.

56. "O worthiest cousin! The sin of my ingratitude was heavy on me."- Duncan here addresses Macbeth. He is overjoyed at the bravery of him in the battle.

57. "I have begun to plant thee, and will labour to make thee full growing."- Duncan says this to Macbeth. He will rear Macbeth as a plant and will see that he is grown like a tree.

58. "There if I grow the harvest is your own."- Macbeth says this to Duncan.

59. Duncan announces Malcolm as the future prince of Cumberland.

60. Inverness: Macbeth's castle.

61. "The prince of Cumberland!- That is a step on which I must fall down or else overleap, For in my way it lies."- Macbeth says this. He considers Duncan's announcement about Malcolm to be future prince an obstacle to the possibility of his becoming the king. At this point either he has to give up his thought of becoming the king or he must bypass it by crooked means.

62. "Stars hide your fires, Let not light see my black and deep desires."- Here the black desire refers to Macbeth's plan of murdering Duncan.

63. "He is full so valiant, And in his commendations I am fed. It is a banquet to me."- Duncan says this to Banquo. He is too full of joy at the bravery and valour of Macbeth against the rebels.

64. Duncan is pleased at Banquo's praise for Macbeth.

SCENE V

65. In Act I Scene V Lady Macbeth reads the letter.

66. "Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be What thou art promised- yet do I fear thy nature/ It is too full of the milk of human kindness / To catch the nearest way."- After reading the letter Lady Macbeth says these words. "The nearest way" refers to the act of murdering Duncan. Lady Macbeth means Macbeth is so soft and kind in nature that he would not be able to commit the crime ,
67. "Thou would be great, are not without ambition, but without the illness should attend it."_ Lady Macbeth says this about Macbeth.
68. "...I may pour my spirits in thine ear, And chastise with the valour of my tongue..."- Lady Macbeth here wishes to instil her spirit in him and drive away with the boldness of speeches all the fears that prevent him from gaining the crown .
69. "He brings the news. The raven himself is hoarse/ That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan..."- Raven is a bird whose cry is ominous. Lady Macbeth says this. The raven here refers to the messenger who delivers the message of the arrival of Duncan in Macbeth's castle.
70. "Come you spirits...unsex me here...fill me ...direst cruelty...come to my woman's breasts and take my milk for gall...come, thick night/ And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell.." Lady Macbeth utters this. She invokes the invisible spirits to desex her, change her motherly feelings into feelings of bitter hatred, thicken her blood so that gentler feelings are choked and no normal feelings of pity can shake her cruel purpose. She also invokes dark night so that her sharp knife may not see the wounds it inflicts nor heaven refrain her from the act of murder.(Milk suggests soft feelings. She prays to the murdering ministers to come to her breasts and turn her motherly feelings into poisonous feelings of a serpent.)

71. "Your face is as a book where men may read strange matters. (MEANS HE LOOKS NERVOUS AND AGITATED) To beguile the time look like the time and bear welcome in your eye...look like the innocent flower/ But be the serpent under it."- Finding Macbeth nervous and agitated Lady Macbeth gives him these advices. She means that in order to perform the heinous crime of murdering Duncan, he has to hide his heart under a false face.

72. "He that's coming must be provided for."- Lady Macbeth says this. Literally it means the guest must be provided food and shelter. Metaphorically She means Duncan who is coming must be killed. Euphemism.

73. "You shalt put this night's business into my dispatch."- This night's business here refers to the plan of murdering Duncan. Lady Macbeth wants to do it herself.

SCENE VI

74. "This guest of summer/ The temple- haunting martlet.."- Martlet, a kind of bird, is called the guest of summer.

75. "The love that follows us is our trouble."- Duncan says this to Lady Macbeth. He feels uneasy at the excess of love and hospitality at Macbeth's castle.

76. "Fair and noble hostess, We are your guest tonight."- Duncan says this to Lady Macbeth.

SCENE VII

77. "if it were done, when it is done, then it were well/ It were done quickly."- Macbeth says this in a soliloquy. 'It' here refers to the murder of Duncan.

78. "If the assassination could trammel up the consequence and catch with surcease success that this blow might be the be all and end all..."-Macbeth

means that if the murder is not followed by further future consequence, then it can be committed at present to fulfil his dream of becoming the king.

79. "he is here in double trust."- 'He' here is Duncan. Macbeth recoils from the thought of murder because of two reasons-1) he is his cousin and his subject. 2) He is his host and as a host it is his duty to protect his guest.

80. Thoughts which made Macbeth suffer from dilemma from murdering Duncan:- i) He is his cousin and subject , ii) he is his host, iii) of late he has honoured Macbeth with the title of Thane of Cawdor iv) everyone was full of praise for Macbeth after his victory in the battle and he does not to lose all these. V) Duncan was a generous, virtuous king.

81. "And pity like a naked new-born babe..or heaven's cherub..."- it is not the error of heaven's vengeance which makes Macbeth recoil from murder, but the terror of moral isolation

82. "I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent/ But only vaulting ambition, which overleaps itself."- Because of the factors involved in question no 80 and 81, Macbeth means here that he has no incentive to goad him to murder except his inordinate ambition to become the king.

83. "We will proceed no further in this business..."- Macbeth says this to his wife. 'This business' here refers to the thought of murdering Duncan. Because of the factors described in question no 80, Macbeth says so.

84. "Was the hope drunk..." Lady Macbeth here taunts Macbeth for the latter's dilemma.

85. "Wouldst thou have that / which thou esteemed the ornament of life.../ I would like the poor cat in the adage."- By ornament of life Lady Macbeth means crown. Here taunts Macbeth comparing him with the proverbial cat who will have the fish but will not wet her feet.

86. "What beast was then that made you break the enterprise to me?"- The enterprise here refers to the plan of murdering Duncan.
87. "I have given suck and know how tender it is to love the babe that milks me..have plucked my nipples..."- Lady Macbeth here tries to embolden Macbeth saying that she would not have hesitated to forego the tender love of a mother for a feeding baby and tear the smiling baby at her face and kill it mercilessly if that is needed to redeem her pledge.
88. "When Duncan is asleep, his two chamberlains...his spongy officers who shall bear the guilt."- Two chamberlains here refer to the two guards of Duncan. 'Spongy officers' mean heavily drunk guards. Lady Macbeth plans to put the blame on the sleeping guards by smearing them with Duncan's blood.
89. "Bring forth men children only/ For thy undaunted mettle should compose nothing but males."- Macbeth says this to his wife for the latter's spirit and determination.
90. "I am settled."- On being emboldened by Lady Macbeth overcomes the dilemma and says he is settled to commit the murder.
91. "False face must hide what the false heart doth know."-Macbeth says this. He means he should make his appearances deceptive. Reminds us of Lady Macbeth's advice to him-"look like an innocent flower and be the serpent under it."