**MACBETH: Act 3 - Scene 1**

Forres. The palace.

Enter BANQUO

BANQUO

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity,
But that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings. If there come truth from them—
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine—
Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well,
And set me up in hope? But hush! no more.

Sennet sounded. Enter MACBETH, as king,
LADY MACBETH, as queen, LENNOX, ROSS,
Lords, Ladies, and Attendants

MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH

If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all-thing unbecoming.

MACBETH

To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,
And I'll request your presence.

BANQUO

Let your highness
Command upon me; to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

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1. Annotate the words of Banquo’s soliloquy where he says:
   - Macbeth is king as the witches promised
   - He thinks Macbeth did terrible things to become king
   - He remembers that the witches prophesied that he’d be father to a line of kings

2. Why does Shakespeare start this Act with Banquo’s secret thoughts?

3. What mood are Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in?

4. What words show this mood?
   - Macbeth: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
   - Lady M: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

5. What does Macbeth announce will happen that evening?

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MACBETH: Act 3 - Scene 1

MACBETH
Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO
Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH
We should have else desired your good advice,
Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.
Is't far you ride?

BANQUO
As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the better,
I must become a borrower of the night
For a dark hour or twain.

MACBETH
Fail not our feast.

BANQUO
My lord, I will not.

MACBETH
We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England and in Ireland, not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention: but of that to-morrow,
When therewithal we shall have cause of state
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: adieu,
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

BANQUO
Ay, my good lord: our time does call upon 's.

MACBETH
I wish your horses swift and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs. Farewell.

Exit BANQUO

6. What will Banquo and Fleance be doing before the banquet?

7. Macbeth talks about Malcolm and Donalbain; what does he say?

8. What evidence is there that Banquo and Macbeth don't trust one another anymore?

9. Can you find any evidence from the rest of the play that links to this scene:
   • About Macbeth and Banquo's friendship
   • The way Macbeth can hide his true thoughts and feelings
   • That Macbeth will do anything to become and stay king
MACBETH: Act 3 - Scene 1

Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night: to make society
The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself
Till supper-time alone: while then, God be with you!

Exeunt all but MACBETH, and an attendant

Sirrah, a word with you: attend those men
Our pleasure?

ATTENDANT
They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

MACBETH
Bring them before us.

Exit Attendant

To be thus is nothing;
But to be safely thus.—Our fears in Banquo
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares;
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
To act in safety. There is none but he
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man.

10. Annotate the words Macbeth says:
- He dismisses everyone until the banquet at 7pm and tells everyone he wants to be alone
- He asks his servant to bring in the men he has asked to see

11. In his soliloquy, what does Macbeth mean when he says:
- To be thus is nothing; But to be safely thus, - our fears in Banquo stick deep
- There is none but he whose being I do fear
- They hail'd him father to a line of kings: Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown
- For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind; For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd

12. How does Macbeth's secret soliloquy tie into what Banquo said at the start of the scene?
MACBETH: Act 3 - Scene 1

To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come fate into the list.
And champion me to the utterance! Who's there!

Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers

Now go to the door, and stay there till we call.

Exit Attendant

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

First Murderer

It was, so please your highness.

MACBETH

Well then, now
Have you consider’d of my speeches? Know
That it was he in the times past which held you
So under fortune, which you thought had been
Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference, pass’d in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand, how cross’d, the instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

First Murderer

You made it known to us.

MACBETH

I did so, and went further, which is now
Our point of second meeting. Do you find
Your patience so predominant in your nature
That you can let this go? Are you so gospell’d
To pray for this good man and for his issue,
Whose heavy hand hath bow’d you to the grave
And beggar’d yours for ever?

Macbeth meets with three murderers that he employs to be assassins, although he also needs to convince them that they should murder Banquo for their own reasons too.

13. List 5 things that Macbeth says to the murderers about Banquo?

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15. What impression of the murderers does Shakespeare build up in this section? -How does he do it?

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First Murderer

We are men, my liege.

MACBETH

Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;
As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,
Shoughs, water-rugs and demi-wolves, are clept
All by the name of dogs: the valued file
Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,
The housekeeper, the hunter, every one
According to the gift which bounteous nature
Hath in him closed; whereby he does receive
Particular addition, from the bill
That writes them all alike: and so of men.
Now, if you have a station in the file,
Not in the worst rank of manhood, say 't; And I will put that business in your bosoms,
Whose execution takes your enemy off,
Grapples you to the heart and love of us, Who wear our health but sickly in his life, Which in his death were perfect.

Second Murderer

I am one, my liege,
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world Have so incensed that I am reckless what
I do to spite the world.

First Murderer

And I another
So weary with disasters, tugg'd with fortune, That I would set my lie on any chance, To mend it, or be rid on't.

MACBETH

Both of you
Know Banquo was your enemy.

Both Murderers

True, my lord.

16. What do the first two murderers say about themselves?

1. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

2. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

17. It is only after they agree to the murder that Macbeth explains to them his reasons for wanting Banquo dead. What does Macbeth mean when he says:

• So is he mine

• I could with barefaced power sweep him from my sight

• yet I must not, for certain friends that are both his and mine, whose loves I may not drop

• I to your assistance do make love, masking the business from the common eye
MACBETH: Act 3 - Scene 1

MACBETH
So is he mine; and in such bloody distance,
That every minute of his being thrusts
Against my near'st of life: and though I could
With barefaced power sweep him from my sight
And bid my will avouch it, yet I must not,
For certain friends that are both his and mine,
Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall
Who I myself struck down; and thence it is,
That I to your assistance do make love,
Masking the business from the common eye
For sundry weighty reasons.

Second Murderer
We shall, my lord,
Perform what you command us.

First Murderer
Though our lives--

MACBETH
Your spirits shine through you. Within this hour at most
I will advise you where to plant yourselves;
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time,
The moment on't; for't must be done to-night,
And something from the ... to me
Than is his father's, must embrace the fate
Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart:
I'll come to you anon.

Both Murderers
We are resolved, my lord.

MACBETH
I'll call upon you straight: abide within.

Exit Murderers

It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight,
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.

Exit

18. Annotate on the script:
- The murderers worry about their lives
- Macbeth says he will tell them where to hide in waiting for Banquo
- That they must kill Banquo that night, before the banquet
- That the murder must be clean and swift with no mistakes
- That Fleance, Banquo's son must be killed too

19. Explain why Macbeth is so eager that Fleance is killed too.

20. How has the relationship between Macbeth and Banquo altered since Act 1 Scene 3?

21. What does the fact that Macbeth employs assassins to murder Banquo reveal about him?