

William Shakespeare
Macbeth
Act 1 Scene 7:
More challenging questions!

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1. In the opening section of Macbeth's soliloquy, what fears does Macbeth reveal which cause him to hesitate in murdering Duncan? ("If it were done . . . to our own lips.") (10)
2. Eventually Macbeth comes to the realisation that he should not be murdering Duncan at all.
 - Why not? (4)
 - What tactics does Lady Macbeth use to change her husband's mind? (4)
 - Explain how Lady Macbeth intends to help Macbeth prepare for the murder of Duncan. (4)
3. "Lady Macbeth's arguments against her husband reveal a total reversal of all the natural instincts of womanhood."
 - Would you like to comment? (6)
4. "Scene 7 reveals a side of Macbeth which is noble and honourable. At the same time, it portrays his wife as a woman who has deliberately allied herself to the powers of evil."
 - Would you like to comment? (10)
5. "Bring forth men-children only!"
 - Macbeth appears to show great relief in being able to succumb to Lady Macbeth's persuasion. Why is he thus relieved? (4)
 - He also perceives a way by which they will be able to hide their part in the murder. What is this way? (2)

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