

William Shakespeare
Macbeth
Act 4 Scene 2

Worksheet by:
Keith Tankard
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. Why should Macbeth have ordered the murder of the defenceless Lady Macduff and her children? (5)

2. Why did Lady Macduff tell her son that his father was dead? (5)

3. The Roman Polanski movie depicts the Thane of Ross as being a traitor who at one time sides with Macbeth. Only later, when he sees the writing on the wall, does he cross over to the other side. When Ross visits Lady Macduff, therefore, he comes as a traitor -- and betrays her by leaving her castle gates open to the murderers.
 - How valid is this interpretation? (3)

4. "Wisdom! to leave his wife, to leave his babes,
His mansion and his titles in a place
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not;
He wants the natural touch: for the poor wren,
The most diminutive of birds, will fight,
Her young ones in her nest, against the owl.
All is the fear and nothing is the love;
As little is the wisdom, where the flight
So runs against all reason."
 - Comment on the validity of Lady Macduff's outrage at her husband's decision to flee Scotland. (5)

<www.knowledge4africa.com>

This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.