

Burnett's AP English Lit  
*Macbeth* – Act IV Quote Analysis

**For each quote below, summarize it in your own words (including who was speaking) and then explain the context of the quote. Next tell how and why it is important to the play as a whole (does it connect to a theme, specific literary device, etc.). Finally, answer the questions which follow each quote.**

1. Macbeth shall never vanquished be . . . Shall come against him. (IV:i) Are the apparitions and/or the witches trying to deceive Macbeth, or is the problem how Macbeth interprets them?
2. Father'd he is, and yet he's fatherless. (IV:ii) What do you think of Macduff's flight to England, especially after hearing the danger to his family? What does this reveal about Macduff's character?
3. Why then, alas,/Do I put up that womanly defence,/To say I have done no harm? (IV:ii) Compare Lady Macduff to Lady Macbeth, particularly with (but not limited to the) reference to their support of their husbands. What useful comparisons can you make?
4. He has kill'd me, mother. / Run away, I pray you! (IV:ii) Although not physically present in this scene, here would be a useful point to trace the character arc of Macbeth from the beginning of the play until now. How has he changed?
5. The king-becoming graces . . . All unity on earth. (IV:iii) What does this back and forth of dialogue between Macduff and Malcolm reveal about each character?
6. He has no children. (IV:iii) Who is Macduff addressing, Macbeth or Malcolm? How might the answer change the meaning and implication of Macduff's statement?
7. Receive what cheer you may: / The night is long that never finds the day. (IV:iii) What do you notice about Macduff and Malcolm over the progression of this scene?

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