

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. Out, damned spot! Out, I say! (V:i) Consider blood as a symbol in the play, and think about either its appearance or references made to it up to and including this scene. What might it symbolize? How does it add meaning to the play as a whole?
2. What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed! (V:i) Trace the character arc of Lady Macbeth from the beginning of the play until now. How has she changed?
3. Now does he feel his title / Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe / Upon a dwarfish thief. (V:ii) Why do you think that Angus uses the term "dwarfish thief" here?
4. Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armour. (V:iii) Why do you think Macbeth is so determined to put on his armor even though Seyton has clearly told him it is not yet required? What does that reveal about Macbeth?
5. I have supped full with horrors . . . Cannot once start me. (V:v) Contrast Macbeth's response here with his reaction after killing Duncan. What does it reveal?
6. She should have died hereafter . . . Signifying nothing. (V:v) This is one of the most famous monologues of the play, and perhaps of all Shakespeare. Why is it significant to the overall play? What does Macbeth's reaction to the fate of his wife reveal about his state of mind?
7. Despair thy charm . . . (V:vii) Note how now two of the witches' prophecies are now coming true, even though they seemed impossible before. (Earlier we saw Birnam Wood "move" towards Dunsinane.) Why is it significant that Macbeth is determined to die fighting in the face of certain death?
8. The time is free. (V:vii) Macduff's statement here is significant -- either because it is true, or ironic. Consider that a repeating motif in Shakespearean plays is how nature in chaos must eventually return to order. (For example, a proper king rules by divine right, so it would be "natural" for a play to end with the right person on the throne.) However, remember that tragic plays are often more pessimistic and cynical. Is everything at the end of *Macbeth* back in order, or is the truth more complex?