



## MACBETH WIDE MARGIN STUDY GUIDE

**PREVIEW**

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## **ACT 1: Scene 1**

A desert place.

*Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.*

FIRST WITCH When shall we three meet again?  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

SECOND WITCH When the **hurly-burly's** [*turmoil*] done,  
When the battle's lost and won.

THIRD WITCH That will be **ere** [*before*] the set of sun. 5

FIRST WITCH Where the place?

SECOND WITCH Upon the heath.

THIRD WITCH There to meet with Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH I come, Graymalkin.

SECOND WITCH **Paddock** [*toad*] calls. 10

THIRD WITCH Anon.

ALL Fair is foul, and foul is fair;  
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

*They exit.*

**ACT 1: Scene 2**  
A camp near Forres.

*Alarum within. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm,  
Donalbain, Lennox, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding  
Captain.*

DUNCAN

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his **plight** [*condition*], of the **revolt** [*rebellion*]  
The **newest state**. [*latest news*]

MALCOLM

This is the sergeant  
Who, like a good and **hardy** [*brave*] soldier, fought 5  
'Gainst my captivity.—Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the King the knowledge of the **broil** [*battle*]  
As thou didst leave it.

CAPTAIN

Doubtful it stood,  
As two spent swimmers that do cling together 10  
And choke their **art** [*swimming ability*]. The merciless Macdonald  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
The multiplying villainies of nature  
Do swarm upon him – from the Western Isles  
Of **kerns and gallowglasses** [*peasant soldiers*] is 15  
supplied.

And Fortune, on his damned **quarry** [*quarrel*] smiling,  
Showed like a rebel's whore. But **all's** [*they were*] too weak;  
For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name,  
Disdaining Fortune, with his **brandished steel,** 20  
*[waving sword]*  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like **Valour's minion,** [*bravery's companion*] carved  
out his passage  
Till he faced the **slave,** [*Macdonald*] 25  
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseamed [*ripped*] him from the nave [*navel*] to th'  
chaps [*jaws*],  
And fixed his head upon our **battlements** [*castle walls*].

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman! 30

CAPTAIN

As **whence** [*from when*] the sun '**gins his reflection**  
*[begins to fade]*  
Shipwrecking storms and **direful** [*terrible*] thunders,  
So from that spring whence comfort seemed to come  
Discomfort swells. **Mark,** [*take note*] King of Scotland, mark, 35  
No sooner justice had, with valour armed,  
Compelled these **skipping** [*leaping in fright*] kerns to  
**trust their heels** [*run away*],  
But the Norway lord, **surveying vantage,**  
*[perceiving an advantage]* 40  
With **furished** [*polished*] arms and new supplies of men,  
Began a fresh assault.

DUNCAN

Dismayed not this our captains, Macbeth and  
Banquo?

CAPTAIN

Yes, as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion. 45

If I **say sooth**, [*speak the truth*] I must report they were

As cannons overcharged with double **cracks**, [*shot*]

So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.

Except they meant to bathe in **reeking** [*streaming with blood*]

wounds 50

Or memorise another **Golgotha**, [*site where Jesus was crucified*]

I cannot tell—

But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN

So well thy words become thee as thy wounds:

They **smack** [*taste*] of honour both. Go, get him surgeons. 55

*The Captain is led off by Attendants.*

*Enter Ross and Angus.*

Who comes here?

MALCOLM

The worthy Thane of Ross.

LENNOX

What a haste **looks** [*is visible*] through his eyes!

So should he look

That seems to speak things strange.

60

ROSS

God save the King.

DUNCAN

**Whence** [*from where*] cam'st thou, worthy thane?

ROSS

From Fife, great king,

Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky

And fan our people **cold**. [*with fear*]

65

Norway himself, with terrible **numbers** [*of soldiers*],

Assisted by that most disloyal traitor,

The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict,

Till that **Bellona's** [*goddess of war's*] bridegroom, **lapped in**

**proof**, [*clad in armor*]

70

Confronted him with **self-comparisons**, [*equal performance*]

Point against point, rebellious arm 'gainst arm,

**Curbing** [*restraining*] his **lavish** [*wild*] spirit. And to conclude,

The victory fell on us.

DUNCAN

Great happiness!

75

ROSS

That now Sweno,

The Norways' king, craves **composition**. [*a truce*]  
Nor would we **deign** [*permit*] him burial of his men  
Till he **disbursed** [*paid*] at Saint Colme's Inch  
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

80

DUNCAN

No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
**Our bosom interest**. [*heartfelt concerns*]  
Go, pronounce his **present** [*imminent*] death,  
And with his **former title** [*Thane of Cawdor*] greet Macbeth.

ROSS I'll see it done.

85

DUNCAN

What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won

*They exit.*



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