

MACBETH
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 3
YEAR 3 AND 4

Banquo gazed out of the castle windows, his eyes caught by two crows strutting side by side along the battlements, for all the world like two friends lost in conversation.

My friend. My best friend. My best friend the king! Look at you now, with the crown upon your head. What did you do to get it, best friend?

Banquo kept turning the words of the witches over and over in his mind. 'All hail, Macbeth and Banquo.'

He was used to being second. Everyone always noticed Macbeth first. But the witches hadn't stopped there...

'Banquo and Macbeth, all hail'

How sweet it was to hear that little change. And they had said more: though he was not to be king himself, his children, and his children's children, they would be kings.

1. Where is Banquo?

Macbeth's castle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riding with his son	<input type="checkbox"/>
The battlefield	<input type="checkbox"/>	At home	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. 'Banquo gazed out of the castle windows..'

Tick the synonym for 'gazed'

looked	<input type="checkbox"/>	shouted	<input type="checkbox"/>
screamed	<input type="checkbox"/>	listened	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. A. What had the witches said to Banquo and Macbeth? Write down two direct quotes from the text

1. _____

2. _____

B. Explain the difference between the two quotes.

Everything the witches had predicted so far had come true, so why not this? Yet, thought Banquo, Macbeth had heard that prophesy too and now here came his 'best friend' with an invitation.

"To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,
And I'll request your presence."

"Let your highness command upon me" replied Banquo. He could see Macbeth's eyes take in the boots that he was wearing, the heavy cloak across his shoulders.

"Ride you this afternoon?"

"Ay my Lord."

"Is't far you ride?"

When Banquo looked into his friend's eyes, something he saw there made him careful in his answers.

4. A. What did Macbeth ask Banquo? Tick one box

If he was going swimming

If he was going riding

If he was going to have a rest

If he was going to help with the washing up

B. Why did Banquo decide he needed to be 'careful in his answers' ?

Ride, Banquo! Take Fleance with you and ride as far and as fast as you can. And don't turn back.

Who were the hard, hooded men who now stood before Macbeth? They listened as Macbeth poured poisonous lies into their ears. Every blow they had suffered? That had come from Banquo. The heavy hand that had beggared their family? Banquo's.

Who made their lives a torment? Banquo. So, who needed to die? Macbeth watched them leave.

5. Why does the narrator say '***Ride, Banquo! Take Fleance with you and ride as far and as fast as you can. And don't turn back.***'

6. How did Macbeth persuade the 'hard-hooded' men to go and Kill Banquo and Fleance?

Lady Macbeth waited for her husband. Was he yet her husband? She still loved him, but he seemed changed – there was no quiet to him anymore. At night she would wake to the sound of his pacing feet; or she would turn and glimpse the moon reflected in his open, staring eyes. How strange, she thought: they'd got what they wanted: they sat upon thrones, they wore crowns and rich robes, and the power was all theirs. But they had had to give up one thing in return. Happiness.

His eyes now, she could see as he crossed the threshold of her chambers, were red and ringed with dark shadows, his face haunted by his thoughts.

7. How does Lady Macbeth see that Macbeth has changed? Tick two boxes

- He is restless, walking up and down all the time
- He is angry
- He is awake at night time, staring at the moon
- He is gentle

8. Write down two things Lady Macbeth and Macbeth had got which they had wanted. Use evidence from the text

1. _____

2. _____

9. What ONE thing had they given up?

10. Use a direct quote from the text to show that Lady Macbeth could see Macbeth was tired

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Banquo gazed out of the castle windows, his eyes caught by two crows strutting side by side along the battlements, for all the world like two friends lost in conversation.

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He was used to being second. Everyone always noticed Macbeth first. But the witches hadn't stopped there...

'Banquo and Macbeth, all hail'

How sweet it was to hear that little change. And they had said more: though he was not to be king himself, his children, and his children's children, they would be kings.

11. Where is Banquo?

Macbeth's castle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riding with his son	<input type="checkbox"/>
The battlefield	<input type="checkbox"/>	At home	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. 'Banquo gazed out of the castle windows..'

Tick the synonym for 'gazed'

looked	<input type="checkbox"/>	shouted	<input type="checkbox"/>
screamed	<input type="checkbox"/>	listened	<input type="checkbox"/>

13.A. What had the witches said to Banquo and Macbeth? Write down two direct quotes from the text

3. _____

4. _____

B. Explain the difference between the two quotes.

Everything the witches had predicted so far had come true, so why not this? Yet, thought Banquo, Macbeth had heard that prophesy too and now here came his 'best friend' with an invitation.

"To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,
And I'll request your presence."

"Let your highness command upon me" replied Banquo. He could see Macbeth's eyes take in the boots that he was wearing, the heavy cloak across his shoulders.

"Ride you this afternoon?"

"Ay my Lord."

"Is't far you ride?"

When Banquo looked into his friend's eyes, something he saw there made him careful in his answers.

14.A. What did Macbeth ask Banquo? Tick one box

If he was going swimming

If he was going riding

If he was going to have a rest

If he was going to help with the washing up

B. Why did Banquo decide he needed to be 'careful in his answers' ?

Ride, Banquo! Take Fleance with you and ride as far and as fast as you can. And don't turn back.

Who were the hard, hooded men who now stood before Macbeth? They listened as Macbeth poured poisonous lies into their ears. Every blow they had suffered? That had come from Banquo. The heavy hand that had beggared their family? Banquo's.

Who made their lives a torment? Banquo. So, who needed to die? Macbeth watched them leave.

- 15.** Why does the narrator say '*Ride, Banquo! Take Fleance with you and ride as far and as fast as you can. And don't turn back*'.

- 16.** How did Macbeth persuade the 'hard-hooded' men to go and Kill Banquo and Fleance?

Lady Macbeth waited for her husband. Was he yet her husband? She still loved him, but he seemed changed – there was no quiet to him anymore. At night she would wake to the sound of his pacing feet; or she would turn and glimpse the moon reflected in his open, staring eyes. How strange, she thought: they'd got what they wanted: they sat upon thrones, they wore crowns and rich robes, and the power was all theirs. But they had had to give up one thing in return. Happiness.

His eyes now, she could see as he crossed the threshold of her chambers, were red and ringed with dark shadows, his face haunted by his thoughts.

17. How does Lady Macbeth see that Macbeth has changed? Tick two boxes

He is restless, walking up and down all the time

He is angry

He is awake at night time, staring at the moon

He is gentle

18. Write down two things Lady Macbeth and Macbeth had got which they had wanted. Use evidence from the text

3. _____

4. _____

19. What ONE thing had they given up?

20. Use a direct quote from the text to show that Lady Macbeth could see Macbeth was tired

ANSWERS
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 3
YEAR 3 AND 4

1. Where is Banquo?

Macbeth's castle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riding with his son	<input type="checkbox"/>
The battlefield	<input type="checkbox"/>	At home	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. *'Banquo gazed out of the castle windows..'*

Tick the synonym for 'gazed'

looked	<input type="checkbox"/>	shouted	<input type="checkbox"/>
screamed	<input type="checkbox"/>	listened	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. A. What had the witches said to Banquo and Macbeth? Write down two direct quotes from the text

'All hail, Macbeth and Banquo.'

'Banquo and Macbeth, all hail'

B. Explain the difference between the two quotes.

The first says Macbeth's name first, the second says Banquo's.

Everything the witches had predicted so far had come true, so why not this? Yet, thought Banquo, Macbeth had heard that prophesy too and now here came his 'best friend' with an invitation.

"To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,

And I'll request your presence.”

“Let your highness command upon me” replied Banquo. He could see Macbeth’s eyes take in the boots that he was wearing, the heavy cloak across his shoulders.

“Ride you this afternoon?”

“Ay my Lord.”

“Is’t far you ride?”

When Banquo looked into his friend’s eyes, something he saw there made him careful in his answers.

4. **A. What did Macbeth ask Banquo? Tick one box**

If he was going swimming

If he was going riding

If he was going to have a rest

If he was going to help with the washing up

B. Why did Banquo decide he needed to be ‘careful in his answers’ ?

He saw something in Macbeth’s eyes. He didn’t trust him.

5. Why does the narrator say ***‘Ride, Banquo! Take Fleance with you and ride as far and as fast as you can. And don’t turn back’.***

The narrator is trying to warn Banquo and Fleance that something bad is going to happen

6. How did Macbeth persuade the ‘hard-hooded’ men to go and Kill Banquo and Fleance?

By telling them that all the bad things that had happened in their lives was because of Banquo.

Lady Macbeth waited for her husband. Was he yet her husband? She still loved him, but he seemed changed – there was no quiet to him anymore. At night she would wake to the sound of his pacing feet; or she

would turn and glimpse the moon reflected in his open, staring eyes. How strange, she thought: they'd got what they wanted: they sat upon thrones, they wore crowns and rich robes, and the power was all theirs. But they had had to give up one thing in return. Happiness.

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they sat upon thrones

they wore crowns and rich robes,

9. What ONE thing had they given up?

happiness

10. Use a direct quote from the text to show that Lady Macbeth could see Macbeth was tired

His eyes now, she could see as he crossed the threshold of her chambers, were red and ringed with dark shadows,