Name: Date:

Macbeth Text Dependent Questions – Act II

<u>Scene i</u>

1. How does the **setting** of this act (stated in lines 6-7) **foreshadow** the events to come?

2. To what does Banquo confess? What is Macbeth's response?

- 3. After Macbeth's servant leaves him, what does Macbeth imagine he can see? What emotion causes this to happen to Macbeth?
- 4. Define **rhymed couplet**. Cite and analyze an example from the end of this scene.

5. What is the bell a signal for and who is ringing it?

Scene ii

6. Why didn't Lady Macbeth kill the king?

- 7. What does "being able to say Amen" **symbolize** and why can Macbeth no longer do it?
- 8. "Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor / Shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more" (lines 55-57). What does sleep **symbolize** in this quote and why does Macbeth feel that "sleep" will now be impossible?

9. What is Lady Macbeth's advice to Macbeth?

10. Why does Lady Macbeth return to the scene of the crime? What does she do there?

Scene iii

11. Define **comic relief**. How does the porter's speech function as comic relief within the play?

- 12. Where does the porter pretend to be the gatekeeper? Comment on the appropriateness of this selection.
- 13. What Shakespearean convention is shown by Lennox's report of the previous night's weather and occurrences?

14. For what reason has Macduff come and what does he discover?

15. Macduff says, "O gentle lady, / "Tis not for you to hear what I speak. / The repetition in a woman's ear / Would murder as it fell" (2.3.96-99). What is **dramatically ironic** about this?

16. After Macbeth, Lennox and Ross return from the king's bedchamber, Macbeth makes a speech that includes the statement, "All is but toys" (2.3.107-112). Explain what this speech may mean. (There are two different ways of looking at it.)

17. What is Macduff's reaction to Macbeth saying he killed the guards?

18. What explanation does Macbeth give for killing the guards? What is his real reason?

19. What happens to Lady Macbeth? Speculate on the possible causes of this occurrence.

20. Define **duality** as a literary term. What duality do Malcolm and Donalbain point out?

21. What do Malcolm and Donalbain each decide to do? Why?

Scene iv

22. What "unnatural" events are reported by Ross and the old man? Why are these occurring?

23. What suspicion is now on Malcolm and Donalbain? Why does Ross not believe it?

24. What are Macduff's words and actions in this scene (and scene iii) that suggest how Macduff feels about the situation?

25. Analyzing lines 55-56, what is the old man's hope for Scotland after Macbeth's coronation? **How is this ironic**?