

## Act 2

1. When Banquo states that the night is particularly dark, we can determine that nature is reflecting the affairs of characters. This literary device is known as *pathetic fallacy*. What atmosphere is created through the use of it in scene 1? What other examples of *pathetic fallacy* present themselves in Act 2?
2. What purpose does this opening scene between Macbeth and Banquo serve? What evidence is there that Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth?
3. How would you describe Macbeth's state of mind as he makes his way to Duncan's chambers?
4. Previously, Lady Macbeth presented herself as a ruthless character. What evidence exists in scene 2 that she might not be as strong as she'd like to be?
5. Why was Duncan murdered offstage?
6. What sentiment does Macbeth express at the end of scene 2?
7. How does the night as described by Lennox in II.iii compare to the night as experienced by the Macbeths in the previous scene?
8. Lady Macbeth takes centre stage twice in II.iii. What do her statements and actions reveal about her character?
9. The Elizabethans believed that when the natural order of the universe is violated, nature reflects this disorder and is thrown into chaos. This phenomenon was a feature of a philosophy known as "the great chain of being". List the various unnatural events that occur before and after the murder of Duncan. (you might have some overlap with question 1)
10. Macduff refuses to go to Scone to see Macbeth crowned. What reasons would he have for this decision? What are your first impressions of Macduff based on scenes 3 and 4?
11. What various functions does the final scene of act 2 serve?