

Macbeth Act IV

Provide act, scene and line references to support answers wherever possible.

No need to transcribe the quote, just write down Act, scene, lines.

1. Summarize the three prophecies that the apparitions give Macbeth. Is there significance in the “messengers”?
2. How does Macbeth react to the new prophecies? What does that tell us about his state of mind?
3. Describe Macbeth’s general behaviour toward the Weird Sisters during IV. i.
4. What dramatic purpose is served by the brief exchange between Lady Macduff and her son?
5. In what significant ways does the murder of Macduff’s family differ from previous crimes?
6. How does Malcolm test Macduff’s loyalty?
7. It is unclear as to whom Macduff’s comment, “He hath no children” (IV. i. 218) is directed. How does its context change if it’s directed toward Malcolm? Toward Macbeth?
8. What lines in the scene reinforce the notion that Macduff will be Macbeth’s nemesis?