

# **Macbeth: Study Guide**

## **Representations and Perspectives**

### **Act I**

#### **Scene i**

**“Fair is foul and foul is fair.” Where are the witches and what does this scene foreshadow? What sort of play are you expecting in light of this paradox?**

- **Witches' Location:** The witches are on a desolate heath.
- **Foreshadowing:** This scene foreshadows the chaotic events and the blurring of moral boundaries that will occur throughout the play. The paradox of “fair is foul, and foul is fair” suggests that appearances can be deceiving and that the natural order will be subverted.
- **Expectation:** In light of this paradox, we can expect a play filled with deception, confusion, and a reversal of moral values.

#### **Scene ii**

**How does this scene influence our impression of Macbeth and Banquo even before we (the audience) meet him?**

- **Influence on Impression:** This scene establishes Macbeth and Banquo as valiant and loyal warriors. The Captain's account of Macbeth's bravery and Banquo's steadfastness in battle gives us a favorable impression of them as honorable and courageous.

**Find two quotes which reference Macbeth's qualities.**

1. **Quote 1:** “For brave Macbeth—well he deserves that name.”
2. **Quote 2:** “Valour's minion carved out his passage.”

#### **Scene iii**

**What things are ‘fair’ and ‘foul’ in this scene?**

- **Fair:** The witches' prophecies seem fair to Macbeth as they predict his rise to power.
- **Foul:** The prophecies are foul because they hint at treachery and murder.

**What do the witches prophesy for Macbeth and for Banquo - and how do they react?**

- **Macbeth's Prophecy:** He will become Thane of Cawdor and eventually the king.
- **Banquo's Prophecy:** He will father a line of kings, but will not be king himself.

# Macbeth Study Guide Questions Prestwick House

**Paul De Marco, William Shakespeare**



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