*Macbeth* 5.3-5.8 Literature Circles

**Directions:** Get into groups of three. Assign parts and read through the assigned scenes using No Fear Shakespeare (and bookmark this page for the future). Read the ORIGINAL text, but pick one person who can translate when you get confused. Try to work through the meaning on your own before turning to No Fear. Answer the guided reading questions AS you read.

**5.3 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Servant**
* **Seyton**
* **Doctor**

**5.4 Roles:**

* **Malcolm**
* **Menteith**
* **Siward**
* **Soldier**
* **Macduff**

**5.5 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Seyton**
* **Messenger**

**5.6 Roles:**

* **Malcolm**
* **Siward**
* **Macduff**

**5.7 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Young Siward**
* **Macduff**

**5.8 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Macduff**
* **Siward**
* **Malcolm**
* **Ross**
* **Macduff**

**Act V, scenes ii – vii**

1. What effect is Shakespeare creating with this sequence of short scenes which follow one another so closely?

2. What do Lennox, Angus, Menteith, and Caithness say about the men that Macbeth commands?

3. What is Macbeth’s lament in his *my way of life is fallen into the sear...* speech?

4. What is Lady Macbeth’s condition, and how does Macbeth believe it could be cured?

5. What tactical strategy does Malcolm take?

6. In reaction to the news that Lady Macbeth is dead, Macbeth delivers his most famous soliloquy.

What does it mean?

7. What does Macbeth recognize and how does it fit in with the “fair is foul” theme?

8. As bad as things look for Macbeth, why does he still scorn all his opponents?

**Act V, scene viii**

1. What information does Macduff tell Macbeth that makes him frightened (*Cow’d my better part*)?

2. What is Macbeth’s response?

3. Why does he quickly change his mind about fighting?

4. On what note does the play end?