*Macbeth* 1.5 – 1.7 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.

**1.5 Roles:**

* **Lady Macbeth (many lines)**
* **Messenger**
* **Macbeth**

**1.6 Roles:**

* **King Duncan**
* **Banquo**
* **Lady Macbeth**

**1.7 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Lady Macbeth**

**Act I, scene v**

1. What is the purpose of the letter?

2. What do we learn about Macbeth from Lady Macbeth’s reaction to the letter?

3. What do we learn about Lady Macbeth from her reaction to the letter?

4. How does the news about King Duncan’s expected arrival affect her? What is she planning?

5. Why does Lady Macbeth pray to be unsexed?

6. In what way does Lady Macbeth’s advice to Macbeth relate to the “fair is foul” theme?

**Act I, scene vi**

1. What is the purpose of this brief scene?

2. How does this scene contribute to the “fair is foul” theme?

**Act I, scene vii**

1. What arguments does Macbeth raise for not doing it? What does he finally conclude?

2. What consequences does Macbeth fear if he commits the murder?

3. What does Lady Macbeth say in an attempt to coerce her husband into the murder?

4. Macbeth’s response to her is: *I dare do all that may become a man / Who dares do more is none*. What is his meaning?

5. What is the point of Lady Macbeth’s baby imagery? Note the many times images of babies and mothers are presented in this play.