*Macbeth* 2.4-3.2 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.

**2.4 Roles:**

* **Old Man**
* **Ross**
* **Macduff**

**3.1 Roles:**

* **Macbeth**
* **Lady Macbeth/Servant/First Murderer/Second Murderer**
* **Banquo**

**3.2 Roles:**

* **Servant**
* **Lady Macbeth**
* **Macbeth**

**Act II, scene iv**

1. What is the purpose of this scene?

**Act III, scene i**

1. In his soliloquy, what suspicion and hope does Banquo reveal?

2. Macbeth seems to be very interested in Banquo’s travel plans. Why do you suppose he is so interested?

3. The speech beginning *To be thus is nothing...* is another one often quoted. What is the meaning of that sentence?

4. What is there in Banquo’s character that makes Macbeth uneasy?

5. What is there in the situation with Banquo that particularly upsets Macbeth?

6. What do we learn about the condition of Scotland in Macbeth’s conversation with the murderers?

7. How does Macbeth convince the murderers to kill Banquo and Fleance?

8. What does Macbeth tell them to do?

**Act III, scene ii**

1. What is the meaning of Lady Macbeth’s opening speech in this scene?

2. In this scene, what is Macbeth’s state of mind?

3. On the other hand, how does Macbeth show that his resolve and ambition have become stronger?

4. What is significant about Macbeth’s instructions to Lady Macbeth about how to treat Banquo at the state dinner that night?