*Macbeth* 3.3-3.6 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.

**3.3 Roles (two murderers can be played by one person):**

* **First Murderer**
* **Second Murderer**
* **Third Murderer**
* **Banquo**

**3.4 Roles:**

* **Macbeth/Lennox**
* **Lords/First Murderer**
* **Lady Macbeth/Ross**

**3.5 Roles:**

* **First Witch/Third Spirit**
* **Hecate/Second Spirit**
* **First Spirit**

**3.6 Roles:**

* **Lennox**
* **Lord**

**Act III, scene iii**

1. What happens at the ambush?

2. Given the previous scene in which Banquo’s death is planned, and the next scene in which the audience could learn with Macbeth that Fleance has escaped, why would Shakespeare choose to dramatize this seemingly insignificant event?

3. Who is the 3rd murderer?

**Act III, scene iv**

1. One characteristic of Shakespeare’s style is his play on words. How is this demonstrated in Macbeth’s response to the murderer’s saying it’s Banquo’s blood on his face?

2. What wordplay is there in the murderer's reply that Banquo is “safe” now?

3. The dagger Macbeth saw in Act II, scene i was a hallucination. Banquo’s ghost in this scene is not. How do we know?

4. What does Lady Macbeth say to Macbeth?

5. What is the significance of the conversation Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have immediately after the guests leave?

6. For what reason does Macbeth mention Macduff’s name?

7. What does Macbeth say he will do next?

8. What is Macbeth’s frame of mind?

**Act III, scene v**

1. Who is Hecate, and why is she angry?

2. What is her plan for Macbeth?

**Act III, scene vi**

1. How can we interpret Lennox’s speech?

2. What further exposition does Shakespeare offer through the Lord?