

AP Literature and Composition Required Summer Assignment

To all rising AP Literature and Composition Students:

Purchase copies of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare.



Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Read the novel and note the subject matter, characterization, diction, and style the author uses. **Be prepared for an in-class assessment when the course begins.**

Macbeth by William Shakespeare



Read the play and complete the study guide that will familiarize you with Shakespeare's subject matter, characterization, language, and style. **You should have your study guide completed when you come to class.**

***Macbeth* Study Guide Questions**

ACT I

Literal

- What do the witches predict for Macbeth and Banquo in their first encounter?
- How does Macbeth earn the title "Thane of Cawdor"?
- What is Lady Macbeth's reaction when she reads Macbeth's letter about the prophecy?
- What plan does Lady Macbeth propose when Macbeth arrives home?

Inferential

- Why might Macbeth be both excited and unsettled by the witches' prophecy?
- What does Lady Macbeth's reaction to the prophecy reveal about her ambitions and values?
- How does Macbeth's hesitation about killing Duncan deepen our understanding of his character?

Universal

- How do ambition and desire for power influence people's moral boundaries?
- When someone encourages another person to do something harmful, who bears more responsibility—the persuader or the actor?



ACT II

Literal

- What vision does Macbeth see before killing Duncan?
- Who discovers Duncan's body, and how does Macbeth react?
- What happens to Duncan's guards?

Inferential

- Why does Macbeth imagine the dagger before the murder?
- How does Macbeth's behavior after the murder differ from Lady Macbeth's, and what does this suggest about each character?
- Why might Malcolm and Donalbain decide to flee Scotland?

Universal

- How does guilt manifest in people after they commit a wrongdoing?
- Why do people sometimes act irrationally when they feel threatened?

ACT III

Literal

- Why does Macbeth fear Banquo?
- What instructions does Macbeth give the murderers?
- What happens at the banquet when Macbeth sees the ghost?

Inferential

- How does Macbeth's decision to kill Banquo show a shift in his character?
- Why does Lady Macbeth struggle to control Macbeth during the banquet scene? • What does the growing distance between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth suggest about the cost of their actions?

Universal

- How does paranoia affect leaders or people in positions of power?
- Why do people sometimes destroy relationships to protect their own status?

ACT IV

Literal

- What new prophecies do the witches give Macbeth?
- What happens to Macduff's family?
- How does Malcolm test Macduff's loyalty?

Inferential

- Why does Macbeth place so much trust in the witches' new prophecies?
- How does the murder of Macduff's family mark a turning point in Macbeth's moral decline?
- What does Malcolm's test reveal about his leadership style?

Universal

- How do people respond when they realize they've been misled by false promises?
- What qualities make someone a trustworthy leader?

ACT V

Literal

- What is Lady Macbeth doing in her sleepwalking scene?
- How does Macbeth react to news of Lady Macbeth's death?
- What leads to Macbeth's downfall in the final battle?

Inferential

- How does Lady Macbeth's mental collapse reflect the consequences of earlier actions?
- Why does Macbeth cling to the witches' prophecies even when events contradict them?
- How does Macduff's confrontation with Macbeth resolve the play's central conflict?

Universal

- How do people cope when their ambitions collapse or their plans fail?
- What does the play suggest about the relationship between fate and free will?