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Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selection "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act I."

\_\_\_\_ 1. The witch’s tale of the sailor indicates that the weird sisters are

**a. comical c. mischievous**

b. malicious d. generous

\_\_\_\_ 2. King Duncan decides to make Macbeth Thane of Cawdor because

a. the last Thane of Cawdor went mad c. the witches told him to

b. Macbeth fought heroically for him d. the last Thane of Cawdor died

\_\_\_\_ 3. When Macbeth receives his new title, Banquo reacts with

a. joy c. concern

b. indifference d. jealousy

\_\_\_\_ 4. After reading the letter from her husband, Lady Macbeth calls upon the spirits to “Make thick my blood, / Stop up th’ access and passage to remorse.” She is asking

a. for guidance so that she can maintain her sense of justice and goodness

b. to be made insensitive to the cruelty she is planning

c. for assurance that she and her husband might agree on a plan

d. for access to her husband’s unspoken thoughts

\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following quotations from Act I is the best example of paradox?

a. “I’ll drain him dry as hay . . .”

b. “Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.”

c. “O, never / Shall sun that morrow see!”

d. “Was the hope drunk / Wherein you dressed yourself?”

\_\_\_\_ 6. Near the end of Act I, Macbeth expresses doubt about murdering the king because

a. Macbeth is the king’s subject and host

b. it could weaken all of Scotland

c. the king’s sons would kill him

d. Lady Macbeth has misgivings

\_\_\_\_ 7. The play’s first act includes all of the following events except

a. an invasion c. a coldblooded murder

b. an order of execution d. some treacherous plotting

Extra Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selection "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act I."

\_\_\_\_ 8. In the play’s first act, Duncan’s attitude toward Macbeth is best described as

a. respectful and kind c. ungrateful and rude

b. suspicious and aloof d. gracious and forgiving

\_\_\_\_ 9. Which of the following is not true?

a. Scotland is at war with an invader.

b. The thane of Cawdor is a traitor.

c. Duncan has a male heir named Malcolm.

d. Duncan and Macbeth are brothers.

\_\_\_\_ 10. Before Macbeth makes his first appearance, we learn about his

a. ambition c. superstitions

b. great power d. bravery

\_\_\_\_ 11. Macbeth’s first reaction to the witches’ prediction is one of

a. indifference c. shock

b. amusement d. anger

\_\_\_\_ 12. Lady Macbeth’s remark that her husband is “too full o’ th’ milk of human kindness” indicates that she is

a. ruthless c. considerate

b. unambitious d. very much like her husband

Reading Skills and Strategies: Blank Verse

The questions below refer to the selection "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act I."

\_\_\_\_ 13. The majority of Macbeth is written in blank verse, which is

a. unrhymed anapestic heptameter c. unrhymed iambic pentameter

b. rhymed trochaic dimeter d. unrhymed dactylic tetrameter

\_\_\_\_ 14. Why is blank verse particularly effective for drama?

a. Its rhymes help to emphasize dramatic emotions.

b. It closely approximates the natural rhythms of English speech.

c. Its irregular structure is suitable for lyrical monologues.

d. Its formality makes characters’ speeches easier to understand.

Literary Element: Tragedy

The questions below refer to the selection "The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act I."

\_\_\_\_ 15. What is Macbeth’s tragic flaw?

a. his lust for power c. his fondness for Macduff

b. his lack of political skills d. his military expertise

\_\_\_\_ 16. All of the following are elements of a tragedy except

a. a central character who makes mistakes

b. a catastrophe near the end or conclusion

c. frequent messages from the gods

d. a central character who is often high-ranking