

Macbeth

Act V

by William Shakespeare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: agitation, fancies, gaze, hereafter, order, player, practice, prowess, shadow, terms

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Play:

Section 1 · Act I · The witches' prophecy on the heath

Section 2 · Act II · Night at Inverness castle

Section 3 · Act III · Banquo's suspicions at Forres

Section 4 · Act IV · Return to the witches' cave

Section 5 · Act V · Night watch at Dunsinane castle

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The patient's **agitation** kept the blankets in a tangle.

- A. restless, disturbed movement
- B. sudden bursts of coughing
- C. heavy and sweaty sleep

2. Sleepless nights filled her head with dark **fancies**.

- A. imaginings taken for real
- B. memories of past mistakes
- C. worries about the coming day

3. The strange sculpture became the **gaze** of the entire town.

- A. a joke people repeated often
- B. a puzzle nobody could solve
- C. a thing everyone stares at

4. The council agreed to take up the matter **hereafter**.

- A. in a private session
- B. at some later time
- C. without further debate

5. The captain reviewed the **order** with his officers before dawn.

- A. a command shouted aloud
- B. an agreed plan of battle
- C. a neat arrangement of ranks

6. Every **player** gathered backstage before opening night.

- A. an actor in a play
- B. a worker who moves scenery
- C. a musician in the band

7. That rare condition lies outside my **practice**.

- A. a doctor's list of patients
- B. a doctor's usual working hours
- C. a doctor's professional skill

8. The young knight proved his **prowess** in his first campaign.

- A. skill and bravery in battle
- B. patience during a long siege
- C. loyalty to a trusted commander

9. Tall hedges **shadow** the house from the road.

- A. to separate by a wide gap
- B. to conceal from view
- C. to shelter from bad weather

10. She described the storm in vivid **terms**.

- A. pictures and drawings
- B. gestures and motions
- C. words or expressions

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

watching — being awake; she gets sleep's rest and waking action at once.

annoyance — harm; the doctor means anything she could hurt herself with.

physic — medicine; to throw physic to the dogs is to be done with doctors.

equivocation — speech that is true and misleading at once, so the hearer believes the wrong thing.

Untimely ripped — cut from the womb rather than born in the ordinary way, so Macduff was never 'of woman born.'

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "A great perturbation in nature,—to receive at once the benefit of sleep, and do the effects of watching—In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say?"

As used in the passage, the word 'agitation' most nearly means...

- A. a fit of frightened weeping
- B. restless, disturbed movement
- C. a sudden burst of anger

2 "This disease is beyond my practice: yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds."

According to the passage, the Doctor admits that Lady Macbeth's disease...

- A. is beyond his skill to treat
- B. was brought on by her sleepwalking
- C. will worsen as the battle nears

3 "Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest."

It can reasonably be inferred that Lady Macbeth's trouble comes from...

- A. dread of the approaching army
- B. a lingering bodily illness
- C. visions her own mind creates

4 "Let every soldier hew him down a bough,
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow
The numbers of our host, and make discovery
Err in report of us."

According to the passage, the soldiers carry boughs in order to...

- A. gather timber for siege engines
- B. shield themselves from enemy arrows
- C. hide the size of their army

5 "She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'hereafter' most nearly suggests that...

- A. there is no time now to mourn her
- B. her death should have been prevented
- C. she was fated to die that night

6 "Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing."

Macbeth most likely compares life to a 'poor player' in order to...

- A. mock actors for their strutting pride
- B. cast life as a brief act soon forgotten
- C. show that every man plays many parts

7 "You, worthy uncle,
Shall with my cousin, your right-noble son,
Lead our first battle.
Worthy Macduff and we
Shall take upon's what else remains to do,
According to our order."

As used in the passage, the word 'order' most nearly means...

- A. an agreed plan of battle
- B. a calm and lawful state
- C. a command from the king

8 "I have no words,—My voice is in my sword: thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out!"

According to the passage, Macduff declares that Macbeth's villainy is beyond what...

- A. a fair fight could settle
- B. any punishment could repay
- C. language can describe

9 "Then yield thee, coward,
And live to be the show and gaze o' the time:
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole, and underwrit,
'Here may you see the tyrant.'"

It can reasonably be inferred that if Macbeth yields, he will be...

- A. imprisoned far from public view
- B. kept alive as a public spectacle
- C. executed before a crowd

10 "Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt.
He only lived but till he was a man,
The which no sooner had his prowess confirmed
In the unshrinking station where he fought,
But like a man he died."

In the passage, young Siward is characterized as...

- A. a brave and able young fighter
- B. a rash boy who fought carelessly
- C. an unwilling soldier pressed to serve

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	C	
4	C	The screen of boughs is what lets Birnam Wood 'move' to Dunsinane — the verb 'shadow' (conceal) is doing the prophecy's work.
5	A	A famously double line — grief postponed or weary dismissal — but on either reading 'hereafter' carries the point: Macbeth answers the timing of her death, not the fact of it.
6	B	
7	A	
8	C	Archaic idiom: 'give thee out' means 'describe you' — the clause says no words are strong enough to name what Macbeth is.
9	B	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Act V

Lady Macbeth sleepwalks under guilt while the English army advances on Dunsinane. The prophecies resolve against Macbeth and the play closes with order restored. Section runs to the end of the play.