Macbeth by William Shakespeare - (Quiz#1) = 50 points!

Directions – Answer each question carefully & completely, no partial credit will be given. Write all answers using complete sentences on your notebook answer sheet or no credit will be earned. Be specific, be specific, be specific!

1. How does the witches’ prophecy of Macbeth’s coming greatness act as a temptation for him?

2. Explain the paradox, or the apparently contradictory nature, of the witches’ greeting to Banquo in Scene 3: “Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.” How is this paradox true?

3. How does Banquo’s reaction to the witches differ from Macbeth’s? What do you think Macbeth’s reaction suggests about his character?

4. One of the most interesting parts of any serious play is what goes on in the characters’ minds. What conflict rages in Macbeth after he hears the witches’ prophecy?

5. Why is the play Macbeth often referred to by actors as “that Scottish Play”?
6. What irony would the audience feel as they watch Duncan enter the castle and hear him praise its peacefulness?

7. What character(s) utters the line- *Fair is foul, and foul is fair, Hover through the fog & filthy air...*

-Explain how the line directly above also illustrates a paradox...

8. Though Macbeth encounters no actual opposition until long after Duncan is murdered, Shakespeare must foreshadow some trouble for him and, to build up suspense, must start one character edging toward suspicion of Macbeth. Who is this character, and what inkling does he give of his dissatisfaction with Macbeth?

9. In Scene 3, when Duncan’s corpse is discovered, Macbeth utters a hypocritical lament beginning, “Had I but died. . . .” But is it really hypocritical? The critic A. C. Bradley argues that, although the speech is meant to be a lie, it actually contains “Macbeth’s profoundest feelings.” Explain this apparent contradiction. How does Macbeth feel about having murdered Duncan? What clues tell you how he feels?

10. Lady Macbeth’s fainting spell, like everything else she has done so far, has a purpose. What message do you think she wants her fainting spell to convey?
11. Macduff becomes an important character in the three remaining acts. Describe how Shakespeare characterizes him in Scenes 3 and 4.

12. What would you say is the mood of Act II? What images and actions help to create this mood? Why might images of blood and water appear in Scene 2? What do they symbolize?

13. A terrible murder is committed in this act. (Act II)- How do various characters respond to the violence? How would people today, say, react to the news that a ruler has been assassinated in cold blood and that a nation is in political chaos?

14. According to the online video when & where was William Shakespeare born?

15. What was Queen Elizabeth’s I nickname? Why?

16. This English King had an interest in the supernatural & named Shakespeare’s troupe “The King’s Men”-who is the king?

17. Explain in detail which character utters the following lines & provide analysis-what do they really mean? What is this type of “speech” called in drama?

*Is this a dagger which I see before me,*

*The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.*

*I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.*
18. Name two plays by William Shakespeare that would be considered *Comedies*...

19. Name two plays by William Shakespeare that would be considered *Tragedies*...

20. Name a play by William Shakespeare that would be considered historically based in nature...

21. Explain in detail who utters the following line, what it means, and why it illustrates the literary term- *paradox*

   **What, can the devil speak true?**

22. Describe in detail one specific example of *foreshadowing* from *Macbeth*...

23. Describe in detail one specific example of a *motif* from *Macbeth*...

24. Describe one major difference between Renaissance Era English Theater & modern theater...

25. What character says this line-

   **We Fail? But screw your courage to the sticking place and we’ll not fail...**