

ACT-Like Multiple Choice - *Macbeth*

Directions

1. Preview the questions & answers.
2. Read the passage.
3. Answer the questions.
4. Choose one question and compose a paragraph that proves your answer is correct.

Sergeant

But all's too weak,
For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name –
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valor's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave –
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseamed him from the **nave** to th' **chops**,
And **fixed his head upon our battlements**.
(1.2.15-23)

1. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards Macbeth:
 - a) Fearful
 - b) Awestruck
 - c) Impressed
 - d) Unsympathetic
2. According to the passage, **nave** and **chops** are most likely:
 - a) Cities
 - b) Body parts
 - c) Parts of a battlefield
 - d) Parts of a castle
3. The speaker is most likely:
 - a) A priest
 - b) A king
 - c) A soldier
 - d) A scribe
4. According to the passage, **fixed his head upon our battlements** implies:
 - a) Macbeth cut off a man's head.
 - b) Macbeth repaired a man's head.
 - c) Macbeth kept staring, not looking away.
 - d) Macbeth corrected someone's faulty opinion.

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Macbeth

This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor.
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings.
My thought, whose murder yet is but **fantastical**,
Shakes so my single state of man that function
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is
But what is not.
(1.3.130-142)

1. With which poetic technique does this passage begin:
 - a) Assonance
 - b) Alliteration
 - c) Imagery
 - d) Metaphor
2. As used above, **fantastical** most likely means:
 - a) Amazing
 - b) Imaginary
 - c) Unbelievable
 - d) Disgusting
3. The speaker's attitude can best be described as:
 - a) Confused
 - b) Scared
 - c) Ambivalent
 - d) Horrified
4. This passage is an example of:
 - a) Imagery
 - b) Paradox
 - c) Reflection
 - d) All of the above

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Lady Macbeth

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be
What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature:
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great,
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst highly,
That wouldst thou holily, wouldst not play false,
And yet wouldst wrongly win... Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear,
And chastise with the valor of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem
To have thee crowned withal.
(1.5.13-20,23-28)

1. According to the passage, impedes most likely means:
 - a) Hinders
 - b) Assists
 - c) Discourages
 - d) Encourages
2. According to the passage, illness most likely means:
 - a) Sickness
 - b) Wickedness
 - c) Greatness
 - d) Fearlessness
3. Which of the following literary devices can be found in this passage:
 - a) Imagery
 - b) Metaphor
 - c) Alliteration
 - d) All of the above
4. Which of the following best describes the speaker's tone:
 - a) Sarcastic
 - b) Ironic
 - c) Ruthless
 - d) Sympathetic

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Lady Macbeth

The raven himself is hoarse,
 That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
 Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
 That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
 And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top full
 Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood,
 Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
 That no compunctious visitings of nature
 Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
 The effect and it. Come to my woman's breasts
 And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers,
 Wherever in your sightless substances
 You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
 And pall thee in the dunkest smoke of hell,
 That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
 Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
 To cry "Hold, hold."
 (1.5.36-52)

1. The primary purpose of mentioning the raven in the first line is to:
 - a) Establish a dark, ominous tone.
 - b) Include animal imagery in the speech.
 - c) Compare it to Duncan in the second line.
 - d) Connect it to the poem "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe.
2. With which of the following would the speaker most likely agree:
 - a) Murder and hell are frightening.
 - b) Heaven can't see through clouds.
 - c) Remorse can get in the way of one's ambitions.
 - d) Visitings of nature and nature's mischief are the same thing.
3. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage everything EXCEPT:
 - a) The speaker is a woman.
 - b) The speaker has wicked plans.
 - c) The speaker wants to be forgiven.
 - d) The speaker wants to destroy her conscience.
4. As presented in the passage, dunkest would best be described as:
 - a) Darkest
 - b) Hottest
 - c) Biggest
 - d) Most evil

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Macbeth

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.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing.
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes.
(2.1.32-48)

1. The best title for this passage would be:
 - a) The knife
 - b) Gouts of blood
 - c) The fatal vision
 - d) The bloody business
2. All the following terms are used to describe the **dagger** EXCEPT:
 - a) False creation
 - b) Heat oppressed
 - c) Fatal vision
 - d) Of the mind
3. According to the passage, all of the following are true EXCEPT:
 - a) The speaker is having a hallucination.
 - b) The speaker is troubled.
 - c) The speaker is bleeding.
 - d) The speaker is delivering a soliloquy.
4. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that:
 - a) The speaker has been stabbed.
 - b) The speaker stabbed someone else.
 - c) The speaker is going to be stabbed.
 - d) The speaker plans to stab someone else.

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Macbeth

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that **perilous** stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?
(5.3.40-45)

1. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude:
 - a) Curious
 - b) Uncertain
 - c) Forlorn
 - d) Dejected
2. Which of the following is the best paraphrase of the speaker's speech:
 - a) Can you fix a sick mind, heal a troubled soul?
 - b) Can you preach to a sick mind and baptize a sinner's soul?
 - c) Can you heal a diseased brain with medicine?
 - d) Can you infect someone with an already poisoned mind?
3. The word **raze** as used above most likely means:
 - a) Lift
 - b) Fix
 - c) Destroy
 - d) Scream
4. The word **perilous** as used above most likely means:
 - a) precious
 - b) dangerous
 - c) heavy
 - d) depressing