

ACT II SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

***“I see thee still; And on thy blade and duneon gouts of blood
Which was not so before.”***

Act: II Scene: 1 Lines: 53-54	
Speaker: Macbeth	Spoken to: Himself / the invisible dagger
Context/Meaning: <i>In Macbeth's famous "bleeding dagger" soliloquy, he imagines a bloody dagger leading him to Duncan's chamber. This is one of many "imaginary" bloody images in the play, which ironically are often more frightening than more realistic on-stage blood.</i>	
Significance: <i>This scene may also be evidence that Macbeth has an overactive imagination--later in the play his "visions" play an important role.</i>	

***“Methought I heard a voice cry ‘Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murder sleep’***

Act: II Scene: 2 Lines: 47-48	
Speaker: Macbeth	Spoken to: Lady Macbeth
Context/Meaning: Macbeth's paranoia is getting to him. He thinks that voices are talking to him. Sleep soothes away one's worries and lets the body rest. His mind will not be able to rest from the act that he just committed. In Macbeth's mind, these words have become a kind of dreadful incantation that speak to the horror of the act he has just committed (Incantation: magic spell or charm)	
Significance: Reveals Macbeth's character	

“A little water clears us of this deed: How easy it is then!”

Act: II Scene: 2 Lines: 85-86	
Speaker: Lady Macbeth	Spoken to: Macbeth
Context/Meaning: Lady Macbeth believes that they can wash away their guilt, much like they can wash blood off their hands. Guilt seems to be clouding her judgement. Lady Macbeth is also covered in blood, from planting the daggers on the chamberlains.	
Significance: Motif of blood and guilt	

***“And Duncan’s horses – a thing most strange and certain –
Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,
Turn’d wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending ‘gainst obedience, as they would
Make war with mankind.’***

Act: II Scene: 4 Lines: 16-21	
Speaker: Ross	Spoken to: Old Man
Context/Meaning: Nature is out of sync because of Duncan’s murder. The balance between good and evil has tipped. The horses have turned wild and uncontrollable as if they were at war with mankind. The Great Chain of Being has been disrupted.	
Significance: Motif – Disruption in nature – unnatural events have occurred	