

ACT III SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

*"Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and I fear
Thou play'st most foully for't "*

Act: III Scene: 1 Lines: 1-3	
Speaker: Banquo	Spoken to: Himself
Context/Meaning: <i>In a soliloquy, Banquo realizes that all the witches' predictions have come true for Macbeth, but he fears that Macbeth "play'st most foully" in order to become King. He believes that Macbeth had something to do with Duncan's death. Banquo's use of the word "foully" is interesting. As one of the foils to Macbeth in the play, he can distinguish between "fair and foul" and not be tempted by the latter.</i>	
Significance: Reveals Banquo's character. He is perceptive to see Macbeth's "foul" character.	

*"They hailed him father to a line of kings.
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown
And put a barren scepter in my gripe..."*

Act: III Scene: 1 Lines: 64-65	
Speaker: Macbeth	Spoken to: Himself
Context/Meaning: <i>In a soliloquy at the end of Scene 1, Macbeth expresses his fears about Banquo. Macbeth is deeply troubled by the witches' prediction that Banquo will be the father of kings, while his reign is childless (fruitless) He will have no descendants to continue his legacy. This precedes the scene in which Macbeth engages the murderers to kill Banquo and Fleance.</i>	
Significance: <i>Reveals Macbeth's emotions of anger and jealousy.</i>	

ACT IV SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

*"Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him."*

Act: IV Scene: 1 Lines: 100-102	
Speaker: Apparition	Spoken to: Macbeth
Context/Meaning: <i>The third apparition is a child wearing a crown, holding a tree branch. He tells Macbeth that he won't be defeated until Birnam Wood (the forest near Macbeth's castle) comes to Dunsinane Hill (location of Macbeth's castle). Gives Macbeth confidence in the fact that forests cannot move. The soldiers of the English & Scottish armies chop branches of the trees from Birnam Wood to camouflage themselves as they move in on the castle</i>	
Significance: <i>-Furtheres the plot, gives Macbeth confidence -Foreshadows the outcome of events in Act V</i>	

*"From this moment
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand."*

Act: IV Scene: 1 Lines: 160-162	
Speaker: Macbeth	Spoken to: Himself
Context/Meaning: <i>At probably his most evil moment in the play, after seeing the witches' visions, Macbeth vows to commit evil deeds without considering the consequences first. Notice that Macbeth no longer broods about the moral implication of his actions, as he did earlier in the play. Later in this speech he specifically plans to surprise Macduff's castle and kill his wife and children, and again vows to act on it before his "purpose cools."</i>	
Significance: Reveals Macbeth's character – evil nature	

ACT V SIGNIFICANT QUOTES

"Out, damned spot! Out, I say! "

Act: V Scene: I Lines: 32	
Speaker: Lady Macbeth	Spoken to: To herself. In front of the doctor & Gentlewoman
Context/Meaning: One of the most famous lines in all of literature..It reveals Lady Macbeth's guilt. She is hallucinating blood on her hands. She obsessively returns to the murder, but she doesn't seem to know whether it's happened yet or not. She is completely undone by guilt and descends into madness. This can be compared to her earlier line: "A little water clears us of our deed."	
Significance: Lady Macbeth's character – A reflection of her declining mental and emotional state.	

"Despair they charm..."

Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped."

Act: V Scene: 8 Lines: 17-20	
Speaker: Macduff	Spoken to: Macbeth
Context/Meaning: <i>Macduff gives Macbeth this news during their final confrontation in Act V. Macbeth is at first reluctant to fight Macduff, feeling some guilt over having slaughtered his family and also assured that his life is charmed since he cannot be harmed by any man "borne of woman."</i> <i>Macduff, however, informs Macbeth that he was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (a surgical procedure we refer to today as a Caesarian section). Therefore, he was not technically "borne" of woman. Macbeth realizes that he has again been tricked by a technicality in the witches' visions, and finally agrees to fight Macduff, sensing his imminent doom but vowing to go down fighting.</i>	
Significance: Reveals plot. Macbeth's realization that he has been tricked by the witches.	