Macbeth Review

1. This play is about Scottish history and witches. Why would Shakespeare choose these topics for his play? Think about the historical era in which he wrote this.
2. What is the purpose of the opening witch scene?
3. What poetic device is used in this quote? Explain what it means in relation to the themes of the play. “Fair is foul and foul is fair”
4. Give two examples of direct characterization of Macbeth from Act 1 Scene 2. Find the quotes!
   1. Trait:

Quote:

* 1. Trait:

Quote:

1. How would you characterize Macbeth using this quote? *“O’ full of scorpions is my mind”* (3.2)
2. How do these characterization tie into the concept that Macbeth is a *tragic hero*?
3. Characterize Lady Macbeth according to this quote:

“*I have given suck, and know   
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me.  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,   
Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums  
And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you  
Have done to this.” (1.7.62-67)*

1. Characterize Lady Macbeth according to this quote:

*“Out damned spot! Out I say! … The Thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now? What! Will these hands ne’er be clean!” (5. 1. 38 and 45)*

1. Based on this information, would you say Lady Macbeth is a dynamic or static character? Why?
2. What is a soliloquy? What is the purpose?
   1. Explain the following quote taken from Macbeth’s soliloquy by putting it in your own words.

“ *I have no spur*

*To prick the sides of my intent, but only*

*Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself*

*And falls on th' other.”*

1. Can you make any connections to *Lord of the Flies*? Explain
2. The themes can be adapted to ANY era or group of people. Can you suggest a modern-day adaptation for this play that fits the conflict? Give the setting and the characters. *Eg. A young executive wants to take over from the CEO of a tech company in Silicon Valley*
3. *Can you construct a theme statement for Macbeth? Eg. Too much ambition may result in destruction.*
4. *Can you construct 2 inquiry questions for Macbeth? Eg. What may be the result of too much ambition?*
5. The following is Macbeth’s final soliloquy. Analyze it for meaning and devices:

*Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,*

*Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,*

*To the last syllable of recorded time;*

*And all our yesterdays have lighted fools*

*The way to dusty death. 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. (5. 5. 19-28)*