

## Macduff – Exam Approach

Write about the character of Macduff and how he is presented throughout the play.

- 1) **Who is Macduff?** – What is our initial impression of him?
- 2) **First meeting with Macduff:** ‘Is the king stirring, worthy thane?’ – What is Macduff’s job whilst the king is at Macbeth’s castle? What does this quote show about his character?
- 3) **‘Ring the alarm bell! Murder and treason!’** – What has just happened? What does this show about Macduff?
- 4) **‘Wherefore did you so?’** – Why does Macduff say this to Macbeth?
- 5) **‘The king’s two sons, are stolen away and fled, which puts upon them suspicion of the deed.’** – What does this quote initially suggest about Macduff?
- 6) **Macbeth: ‘Macduff denies his person at our great bidding’** – Why is Macduff’s absence at Macbeth’s celebratory banquet symbolic?
- 7) **The Macduff family slaughter:** ‘His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls that trace him in his line.’ – Why does Macbeth order the slaughter of Macduff’s family? Why is this a key moment?
- 8) **Macduff proves his loyalty to Malcolm in England.** Macduff states ‘O nation miserable, with an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter’d’ – what does this scene prove about Macduff? How does Macduff feel towards Macbeth?
- 9) **‘All my pretty chickens and their dam.’** – what does this reaction to his family’s slaughter show? How does this compare to Macbeth’s reaction towards his wife’s death?
- 10) **When Malcolm tells him to bear ‘it like a man’, Macduff says “But I must also feel it as a man”** – why does Macduff say this? What is Shakespeare trying to prove with Macduff?
- 11) **‘Turn, hell-hound, turn’ ‘I have no words, my voice is my sword.’** – What do these quotes show about Macduff’s feelings towards Macbeth?
- 12) **‘From his mother’s womb untimely ripp’d’** – what does Macduff reveal to Macbeth on the battle field? How does this relate back to the witches’ prophecy?
- 13) **Macduff beheads Macbeth** – how does this relate back to the start of the play?
- 14) **The overall character** – what is the purpose of Macduff? Why does he represent within the play?

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