

Name _____



Shadowed Mind

One dark and silent night, Macbeth sneaked into King Duncan's chamber. His hands trembled as he held the dagger. Lady Macbeth had told him this was the only way to make the witches' prophecy come true. If Duncan was gone, Macbeth would be king. Taking a deep breath, he did the dreadful deed.

At first, Macbeth felt a rush of fear and excitement. But as he looked at his hands, now stained with blood, his heart pounded. Guilt crept into his mind like a shadow. He whispered, "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?" No matter how much water he used, he still felt unclean.

As time passed, Macbeth's guilt turned into paranoia. He feared someone would discover what he had done. He began to hear whispers in the wind and imagined footsteps following him. His sleep became restless. Each night, he would wake up in a cold sweat, feeling as if unseen eyes were watching him.

His fear grew worse when he remembered that the witches had also predicted that Banquo's descendants would become kings. This thought haunted him. If Banquo's family would rule one day, did that mean Macbeth would lose his crown? He could not let that happen. In his growing paranoia, he ordered Banquo and his son to be killed.

One evening, as Macbeth sat at a grand feast, he suddenly turned pale. His hands shook, and his eyes widened with terror. He pointed to an empty chair. "Look! There he is!" he shouted. The guests turned, confused. No one was there. But Macbeth saw Banquo's ghost staring at him with cold, accusing eyes. He covered his face, trying to block out the sight, but the vision would not go away.

Lady Macbeth tried to calm him, but she, too, had changed. At night, she walked in her sleep, rubbing her hands and whispering about the blood that would not wash away. The weight of their crimes crushed them both.

Macbeth had once been a brave and noble warrior, but his guilt and paranoia made him fearful and cruel. He believed that killing would bring him peace, but it only brought more fear. In the end, his own mind became his worst enemy.