Key Quotes from Act III (in sequential plot order): Dialogue, Soliloquies, and Asides in *Macbeth* Name

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| D, S, or A | Speaker | **Quote** **(**Add citation**).** | Significance |
| Soliloquy | Banquo | “Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,/As the weird women promised, and, I fear,/Thou play'dst most foully for't.” | **III.i.1-3** |
| **III.i.4-46** **Summary**: Macbeth asks Banquo if he and Fleance will ride (movie interpretation: train instead of horse). Banquo says they will but will also be back for the 7 pm feast. | | | |
| Soliloquy | Macbeth | “To be thus is nothing;/But to be safely thus.--Our fears in Banquo/Stick deep.” | **III.i.47-49** (“thus” means Macbeth’s current state of king) |
| **III.i.47-139** **Summary**: Macbeth speaks with murderers he hired to kill Banquo and Fleance. | | | |
| Soliloquy | Macbeth | “It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight, If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.” | **III.i.140-141** (end of scene) |
| **III.ii.1-55 Summary**: Lady Macbeth asks Macbeth why he stays alone and keeps thinking of the murder when he should just accept it. Macbeth hints that he will kill Banquo and Fleance, but tells her, “Be innocent of the knowledge” (l.44). The leave for the banquet. (end) | | | |
| **III.iii.1-22:**  Three hired murderers kill Banquo, but Fleance escapes. (movie interpretation: train) End of scene | | | |
| Dialogue | Macbeth (to the first murderer) | “Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: yet he's good/That did the like for Fleance.” | **III.iv.17-19: The murderer pulls Macbeth from the banquet to receive the news.** |
| **III.iv.20-58 Summary: Macbeth sees Banquo’s ghost. No one else does. He starts to lose it in front of his guests. (**Movie interpretation: Ross is obviously uncomfortable, as are several others. Here it is clear this is parallel to Russia under Stalin.) **Lady Macbeth tells the guests that Macbeth has had these “fits” since he was a child and it will pass.** | | | |
| Dialogue | Lady Macbeth (to Macbeth aside from the other guests) | “Are you a man? (l.58).../ This is the very painting of your fear:/This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,/Led you to Duncan” (ll.62-64). | **III.iv.58-64** |
| **III.iv.65-122 Summary:** Macbeth ruins any happiness they experienced at the banquet with his rants about the ghost. Then he asks about Macduff and there is a hint of Macbeth’s suspicion in Macduff not attending the banquet. | | | |
| Dialogue | Macbeth (to Lady Macbeth) | “It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood” (l. 122) |  |
| **Movie skips scene 5 (some scholars believe it was not written by Shakespeare. Hecate, the “head” witch, speaks.)** | | | |
| III.vi.1-49: People begin to suspect Macbeth. (Movie interpretation: Ross is interrogated to find out where Malcolm is. The scene is a visual repetition of the Thane of Cawdor’s execution.) | | | |

|  |
| --- |
| Director’s choices and interpretations |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |