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

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| D, S, or A | Speaker | **Quote** **(**Add citation**).** | Significance |
| Dialogue | All Witches | “Fair is foul, and foul is fair” (II.i.10) | See Class Notes |
| Dialogue | Duncan (to Ross, who has told Duncan of Cawdor’s treason) | “No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive/Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,/ And with his former title greet Macbeth” | King Duncan will execute the Thane of Cawdor for being a traitor and will give the title to Macbeth. This will make the witches’ prediction come true which will cause Macbeth to believe the witches are “fair.” **This foreshadows Macbeth’s own treason.** |
| Aside | Macbeth | “Glamis, and thane of Cawdor!/The greatest is behind” | This is Macbeth’s first sign of ambition. Because it is an aside, it shows that he was hiding this thought from other characters; **therefore, this is the first time the audience sees Macbeth as disloyal and tempted.** |
| Aside | Macbeth | “If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me,/Without my stir” |  |
| Dialogue | Macbeth (to Duncan) | “The service and the loyalty I owe,/In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part/Is to receive our duties; and our duties/Are to your throne and state children and servants,/Which do but what they should, by doing every thing/Safe toward your love and honour” | \*\***Dramatic Irony**\*\* The **audience knows** that Macbeth is considering murdering Duncan to get the throne, **but Duncan and the other characters don’t know** that. This builds both suspense in the plot and the characterization of Macbeth as deceitful while appearing to be loyal. |
| Aside | Macbeth (after Duncan names Malcolm Prince of Cumberland) | “The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step/On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,/For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;/Let not light see my black and deep desires:/The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,/Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see” | \*\*Dramatic Irony\*\* |
| Soliloquy | Lady Macbeth | “Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be/What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;/It is too full o' the milk of human kindness” |  |
| Soliloquy | Lady Macbeth | “Come, you spirits/That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,/And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full/Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood” |  |
| Dialogue | Lady Macbeth (to Macbeth) | To beguile the time,/Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,/Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,/But be the serpent under't. |  |
| Soliloquy | Macbeth | I have no spur/To prick the sides of my intent, but only/Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself/And falls on the other. |  |
| Dialogue | Lady Macbeth (to Macbeth) | Was the hope drunk/Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?/And wakes it now, to look so green and pale/At what it did so freely? From this time/Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard To be the same in thine own act and valour/As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that/Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,/And live a coward in thine own esteem,/Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'/Like the poor cat i' the adage? |  |
| Dialogue | Macbeth )to Lady Macbeth) | Bring forth men-children only;/For thy undaunted mettle should compose/Nothing but males. |  |

Movie observations for Act I (Director Rupert Goold’s choices and film features)

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