

Homework Scaffolding Tool: *Macbeth* Act 4.3, lines 159–199

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Directions: Read the scene in the first column. Answer the questions in the second column. Consult the third column and the explanatory notes in your text for vocabulary and other assistance. Consider listening to this free online recording of *Macbeth* Act 4 as you read the scene: www.wiredforbooks.org/ (20:17–22:00).

Text: Act 4.3, lines 159–199	Questions	Vocabulary
<p><i>Enter a Doctor.</i></p> <p>Malcolm Well, more anon.— Comes the King forth, I pray you? 160</p> <p>Doctor Ay, sir; there are a crew of wretched souls That stay his cure. Their malady convinces The great assay of art; but at his touch— Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand— They presently amend. 165</p> <p>Malcolm I thank you, doctor. [<i>Doctor exits.</i>]</p> <p>Macduff What's the disease he means?</p> <p>Malcolm 'Tis call'd the evil: A most miraculous work in this good king; Which often, since my here-remain in England, 170 I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven, Himself best knows; but strangely-visited people, All swoll'n and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye, The mere despair of surgery, he cures, Hanging a golden stamp about their necks, 175 Put on with holy prayers, and 'tis spoken, To the succeeding royalty he leaves The healing benediction. With this strange virtue, He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy, And sundry blessings hang about his throne, 180</p>	<p>Of which king are Malcolm, Doctor, and Macduff speaking (lines 160–181)?</p> <p>What is the King doing (lines 171–181)?</p> <p>What overall impression does this create of this king? How does this king compare to Macbeth?</p> <p>In what scene did Ross last appear and what happened in that scene?</p>	<p>wretched (adj.) – very unfortunate in condition or circumstances</p> <p>malady (n.) – disorder or disease of the body</p> <p>solicits (v.) – to petition (someone or some agency)</p> <p>benediction (n.) – an utterance of good wishes</p>

<p>That speak him full of grace. <i>Enter Ross.</i> Macduff See who comes here. Malcolm My countryman; but yet I know him ^{not.} Macduff My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither. Malcolm I know him now. Good God betimes remove 185 The means that makes us strangers! Ross Sir, amen. Macduff Stands Scotland where it did? Ross Alas, poor country! Almost afraid to know itself. It cannot 190 Be call'd our mother, but our grave; where nothing, But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile; Where sighs and groans and shrieks that rend the air Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems A modern ecstasy; the dead man's knell 195 Is there scarce ask'd for who; and good men's lives Expire before the flowers in their caps, Dying or ere they sicken. Macduff O, relation Too nice, and yet too true!</p>	<p>What words or phrases does Ross use to describe Scotland (lines 189–198)?</p> <p>What is the cumulative impact of these words?</p>	
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