

## Homework Scaffolding Tool: *Macbeth* Act 2.4

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Class:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
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**Directions:** Read the scene in the first column. Answer the questions in the second column. Consult the explanatory notes in your text for vocabulary and other assistance.

Consider listening to this free online recording of *Macbeth* Act 2 as you read the scene:

<http://www.wiredforbooks.org/> (15:10–17:16).

Text: Act 2.4	Questions
<p><i>Enter Ross with an Old Man</i></p> <p><b>Old Man</b> Three score and ten I can remember well, Within the volume of which time I have seen Hours dreadful and things strange, but this sore night Hath trifled former knowings. 5</p> <p><b>Ross</b> Ha, good father, Thou see'st the heavens, as troubled with man's act, Threatens his bloody stage. By th' clock 'tis day, And yet dark night strangles the traveling lamp. Is 't night's predominance or the day's shame 10 That darkness does the face of earth entomb When living light should kiss it?</p>	<p><b>How does "this sore / night" (lines 3–4) compare to others the Old Man has seen (lines 1–5)?</b></p> <p><b>What is unusual about the day (lines 8–9)?</b></p> <p><b>What explanation does Ross give for the darkness (lines 6–12)?</b></p>
<p><b>Old Man</b> 'Tis unnatural, Like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last A falcon, tow'ring in her pride of place, 15 Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed.</p> <p><b>Ross</b> And Duncan's horses (a thing most strange and certain), Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race, Turned wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out, 20 Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would Make war with mankind.</p> <p><b>Old Man</b> 'Tis said they eat each other.</p>	<p><b>To what does the Old Man refer in the phrase "the deed that's done" in line 14?</b></p> <p><b>How do the examples given by the Old Man and Ross in lines 14–26 develop the Old Man's claim that the darkness is "unnatural" (line 13)?</b></p>

<p><b>Ross</b> They did so, to th' amazement of mine eyes That looked upon 't. 25</p>	
<p><i>Enter Macduff.</i> <b>Ross</b> Here comes the good Macduff. – How goes the world, sir, now? <b>Macduff</b> Why, see you not? 30 <b>Ross</b> Is 't known who did this more than bloody deed? <b>Macduff</b> Those that Macbeth hath slain. <b>Ross</b> Alas the day, What good could they pretend? <b>Macduff</b> They were suborned. 35 Malcolm and Donalbain, the King's two sons, Are stol'n away and fled, which puts upon them Suspicion of the deed. <b>Ross</b> 'Gainst nature still! Thriftless ambition, that will ravin up 40 Thine own lives' means. Then 'tis most like The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth. <b>Macduff</b> He is already named and gone to Scone To be invested.</p>	<p><b>What explanation of the crime does Macduff give (lines 32–38)?</b></p> <p><b>How does Ross's response to Macduff's information (lines 39–42) develop the ideas he expressed earlier (lines 8–26)?</b></p> <p><b>Who has taken the crown following Duncan's death and his sons' flight?</b></p>
<p><b>Ross</b> Where is Duncan's body? 45 <b>Macduff</b> Carried to Colmekill, The sacred storehouse of his predecessors And guardian of their bones. <b>Ross</b> Will you to Scone? <b>Macduff</b> No, cousin, I'll to Fife. 50 <b>Ross</b> Well, I will thither. <b>Macduff</b> Well, may you see things well done there. Adieu. Lest our old robes sit easier than our new. <b>Ross</b> Farewell, father. <b>Old Man</b> God's benison go with you and with those 55 That would make good of bad and friends of foes.</p>	<p><b>Where has Duncan's body been buried (lines 45–48)?</b></p> <p><b>Where do Macduff and Ross respectively plan to go (lines 49–51)?</b></p> <p><b>Explain Macduff's meaning in lines 52–53.</b></p>