***Macbeth* – Act II*:* A Guided Reading:**

Directions: Answer the following questions in your notebooks as you read:

1. Scene I
   1. Why is Banquo unable to sleep?
   2. Why does Macbeth lie to Banquo, saying he has not thought of the Three Witches?
   3. Discuss the significance of the bell (Lines 43 and 76)
2. Scene II
   1. Explain and discuss the symbolic significance of the imaginary dagger.
   2. Discuss Macbeth’s immediate reactions after doing the deed.
      1. Give specific examples to illustrate how he is feeling and what he is thinking
   3. Re-read lines 78-81 and lines 82-86 and discuss Shakespeare’s use of indirect characterization.
3. Scene III
   1. Who is the Porter and what is his role?
   2. Discuss how the Porter adds a touch of humor to an otherwise dramatic play.
   3. Explain the significance of Macduff’s character. Consider his reaction to King Duncan’s death. In a play where trust is in question, how do we know who is genuine? Cite at least two lines to support your claims.
   4. Lady Macbeth faints. Why? Based on this, what can you surmise about her character?
   5. Malcolm and Donalbain flee to separate locations. Why? Considering that Malcolm is now the rightful king, why doesn’t he stay and claim what is rightfully his?
4. Scene IV
   1. Discuss the Old Man’s shared wisdom. What is his suggestion? Central Idea/Thematic implications/connections?
   2. Macbeth has killed King Duncan. Is this the witches’ fault for teasing him with idea of being king? Is this Lady Macbeth’s fault for coercing her husband to ignore his conscience and obey his “vaulting ambition”?
   3. If the witches never spoke to Macbeth, would King Duncan be dead now? If not, does this suggest that they foresaw Macbeth’s future? Might that suggest that his fate/destiny were predetermined?
   4. Discuss how Macbeth’s ambition is his primary flaw.