**Macbeth**

**Act IV: Guided Reading Questions**

1. “…Security is mortals’ chiefest enemy.” (Act III)
   1. What does this mean? What Central Idea does this suggest?
   2. How does this connect to previous lines/motifs?
2. Describe how the witches give Macbeth a false sense of confidence.
   1. Thoroughly explain each of the four apparitions, what each means, and what each makes Macbeth consider.
3. Discuss why Macbeth hires murderers to kill Macduff’s family (especially considering he knows that Macduff is in England, not in Fife).
   1. Does Macduff’s family pose a threat?
4. Act IV, Scene iii is a simple, yet significant segment of the play.
   1. Cite three lines that characterize Malcolm:
      1. Why does he feel he is not worthy to be king?
      2. Why does he not want to engage in battle with Macbeth?
      3. Why does he change his mind and commit to war?
   2. Cite three lines that characterize Macduff:
      1. Why is he desperate for war?
      2. How does he demonstrate his loyalty for Scotland? When did we first see this?
      3. How is he able to convince Malcolm to fight with him?
   3. Discuss the significance of Ross’s character. Who is he allegiant to? Why does he initially tell Macduff that no harm has come to his family?
5. Based on your understanding of Act IV, explain how Act V is likely to begin. Also, clarify who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist (hint: remember the definitions for each).