

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade READING



Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## MACBETH

A year or two before Edward the Confessor began to rule England; a battle was won in Scotland against a Norwegian King by two generals named Macbeth and Banquo. After the battle, the generals walked together towards Forres, in Elginshire, where Duncan, King of Scotland, was awaiting them. While they were crossing a lonely heath, they saw three women withered in appearance and wild in attire. "Hail, Macbeth, chieftain of Glamis," said the first woman. "Hail, Macbeth, chieftain of Cawdor," said the second woman. "Hail, Macbeth, King that is to be," said the third woman. Then Banquo asked, "What of me?" and the third woman replied, "Thou shalt be the father of kings." Banquo and Macbeth knew then that they had been addressed by witches, and were discussing their prophecies. "The third witch called me, 'King that is to be.' "Banquo," he said, "you see that the witches spoke truth concerning me. Do you not believe that your child and grandchild will be kings?" Banquo frowned.

Macbeth thought the prophecy that he should be King too pleasant to keep to himself and he mentioned it to his wife in a letter. When Lady Macbeth, read his letter, she was determined that he should be King. When a messenger arrived to inform her that Duncan would pass a night in Macbeth's castle. She told Macbeth as she saw him that Duncan must spend a sunless morrow. She meant that Duncan must die.

After supper Duncan went to bed, and two grooms were placed on guard at his bedroom door. Lady Macbeth caused them to drink wine till they were stupefied. Macbeth came and found the daggers lying by the grooms; and soon with red hands appeared before his wife. The murderers heard a knocking. It was Macduff, the chieftain of Fife. Macbeth showed him the door of the King's room. Macduff entered, and came out again crying, "O horror!" Macbeth appeared as horror-stricken as Macduff and he slew the two grooms with their own daggers. Macbeth was crowned at Scone. Macbeth was King.

Underline the five sentences in the passage that support the idea.

What is the main idea of the passage?

Write a short summary that tells what the passage explains. Include only the most important information.