Macbeth Act IV

1. The ingredients used by the witches probably reflects beliefs prevalent in Elizabethan England? Why else might this disgusting recipe be appropriate? (Act IV, Scene 1, Lines 4-19)
2. How is the state of the kingdom under Macbeth’s rule reflected in the images of dismemberment? (Act IV, Scene 1, Lines 25-30)
3. What catastrophic events does Macbeth mention in lines 52-60 of Act IV, Scene 1? What point is he making with this list?
4. What is Macbeth’s only interest now? (Act IV, Scene 1, Lines 69-74)
5. Why will Macbeth kill Macduff despite the prophecy that no man “born of woman” can harm him? (Act IV, Scene 1, Lines 82-86)
6. Why might the witches initially refuse to answer his question and then give in? (Act IV, Scene 1, Lines 103-111)
7. What do you think Lady Macduff is feeling? Why might Macduff have fled without telling her? (Act IV, Scene 2, Lines 1)
8. In what way is a bird a fitting image for Macduff’s son? (Act IV, Scene 2, Lines 34-37)
9. On the bottom of page 358 a messenger arrives to warn of danger. What is the point of this as a literary element?
10. How does Lady Macduff’s words reflect he “Fair is foul, and foul is fair” theme? (Act IV, Scene 2, Lines 70-74)
11. Why is Malcolm wary? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 11-18)
12. What is Macduff about to do and why? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 31-57)
13. What imagery is used to portray Scotland? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 39-41)
14. Why cant Macduff tolerate Malcolm’s last confession when he has accepted previous flaws? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 91-104)
15. What difference between Malcolm and Duncan does this scene highlight? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 115-120)
16. Foil- a character that contrast strongly another character. How is Edward the Confessor a foil for Macbeth in this scene? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 148-159)
17. What do you think of the way Ross breaks the bad news to Macduff? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 204-211)
18. How do Lady Macbeth, Malcolm, and Macduff differ in their definitions of manhood? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 219-221)
19. “The night is long that never finds the day” is an aphorism- expressing a principle or truth. What does it mean, both literally and in a larger sense? (Act IV, Scene 3, Lines 240)