Shakespeare: Macbeth Questions

1. Is Shakespeare boring, or just difficult to read? Explain.
2. The rhymed couplet is one of the witches’ most famous utterances. What them does it introduce? (Act 1, Scene 1, Lines 10-11)
3. In what way does the description of Macbeth and his deeds conform to the definition of a tragic hero? (Act 1, Scene 2, Lines 19-23)
4. What are your first impressions of Macbeth?
5. These lines introduce the theme of sleeplessness in the play. What might cause sleeplessness? (Act 1, Scene 3, Lines 19-23)
6. Remember what a paradox is? How might the paradoxes be true in Act 1, Scene 3 Lines 65-67?
7. Banquo makes some comments about the witches’ motives; paraphrase what he says. (Act 1, Scene 3, Lines 120-127)
8. What are two ways Macbeth imagines he could become king? (Act 1, Scene 3, Lines 134-142)
9. How does Macbeth feel about the prophecy that he will be king? (Act 1, Scene 5, Lines 7-12)
10. What role do you think Lady Macbeth will play in Macbeth’s downfall? (Act 1, Scene 5, Lines 37-52)
11. What does Duncan say spurred Macbeth home? What is the tone? What irony are you noticing? (Act 1, Scene 6, Lines 21-24)
12. What comparison is Macbeth making in Act 1, Scene 7, Lines 25-28?
13. How does Lady Macbeth personify hope and what is she trying to achieve by doing so? (Act 1, Scene 7, Lines 25-38)
14. What cultural stereotype is behind Macbeth’s comment about male children? (Act 1, Scene 7, Lines 73-74)