**Macbeth - *Act 2, scenes 3 and 4***

**Scene 3**

* *Porter,* or gatekeeper - provides some “comic relief”.
* (58-65) Lennox, one of the King’s men, arrives to check in on Duncan. He describes some weird occurrences from the night before. He does not yet realize that the King was murdered during that time.
* ***Pathetic Fallacy*** occurswhen nature, animals, the weather and other elements of the natural world seem to be affected by the moods and emotions shown by the characters. Since the murder of a King was ***against*** the natural order of things, it is not surprising that strange things happened.
* Macduff goes off to check on the King, and returns (69-70) with the horrible news.
* (72-74) The murder of Duncan is “sacrilegious”, and against the will of God (“...the Lord’s annointed temple”). *The King, it was believed, was chosen by God. To defy the will of God in this way was a crime against Him and all his creations.*
* (92-95) Macduff makes an ***ironic*** assessment of Lady Macbeth. Once again, things are not as they appear.
* (103-108) Macbeth tries to show how much love and respect he had for Duncan. He too is faking it, trying to look innocent.
* (121-134) Macbeth admits that, in an apparent fit of rage, he killed Duncan’s two guards. Macduff is upset; he no doubt wanted to question them. Lady Macbeth “faints”, so as to draw attention.
* (139-145) Malcolm and Donalbain, Duncan’s sons, are worried. They think that they may be targeted next, and make plans to hide. They both realize that the guilty party (“
* fake man”) can easily show “unfelt sorrow” (160). Therefore, the murderer could be anyone.
* Banquo seems to be suspicious (147)

**Scene 4**

* fr(1-11) More ***Pathetic Fallacy.*** The old man (who was very old for Shakespeare’s time) emphasizes how unusual things have been. He has seen nothing like it: the day is dark, an owl killed a hawk, Duncan’s usually tame horses went wild and tried to eat one another.
* Macduff feels that the King’s sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, probably bribed the guards into killing their father. They seem to be guilty, he says, because they have disappeared.
* Ross rightly assumed that Macbeth will now be named King, since Duncan’s sons are no where to be found. Macbeth has indeed went away to assume the throne.
* (49-50) Good example of ***clothing imagery/metaphor/motif.*** Macduff suggests that their “new clothes”(the reign of Macbeth) will not be as good as the “old clothes” (the reign of Duncan).
* (52-53) More reference to the reversal theme: “...would make good of bad and friend of foes”. The old man hopes that those who are now “bad” and “foes” can be turned into “good friends”