***Macbeth***

***Notes on Act 3, scenes 5 and 6***

Scene 5:

* **Hecate** = “dark goddess”; often called the queen of the witches. She is angry that the witches have not involved her directly in their dealings with Macbeth.
* She recognizes that Macbeth acts only with his own best interest in mind (13). He welcomes evil only because it helps him get what he wants. It is not as if he has a genuine fondness for doing bad things, as the witches would. This seems to insult Hecate.
* She knows Macbeth is coming, and with the witches, plans to destroy him. They will do this by making him over-confident, which will cloud his judgement. “...security is mortal’s chiefest enemy (33).

Scene 6:

* Lennox opens this scene by listing off the events that have happened recently: the murders of Duncan and Banquo, the killing of Duncan’s guards, how Malcolm and Donalbain - and now Fleance - have fled and were thus blamed by Macbeth for the crimes. He concludes by saying that Macbeth has “...borne all things well”(17), meaning that he seemed to have the whole thing planned. The **tone** of this speech is very sarcastic: Lennox recognizes that Macbeth’s desperate attempts to deflect attention have backfired
* Lennox calls Macbeth a “tyrant”(22).
* We see that Malcolm is the guest of the English King, who recognizes that the son of Duncan is the man who rightfully owns the throne.
* Under Macbeth’s rule, all of Scotland is suffering: food is scarce, the nights are full of fear and worry, and people fear that there will be more killing (35-37).
* Macbeth is preparing to fight (40). He tried to get Macduff to help, but was turned down (41-42). This only adds to the growing hatred he has for Macduff, who tries to convince the King to attack Scotland and overthrow Macbeth.