Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Macbeth 4.3**

1. Explain why Malcom doesn’t totally trust Macduff in the beginning of this scene. What is Malcom afraid might happen?
2. Malcom wants to test Macduff to make sure that Macduff is honest and has his priorities straight. Explain the “test” which Malcom sets up for Macduff.
3. Think about the test which Malcom set up for Macduff. How does this test show an important difference between the former King Duncan and Malcom?
4. What special powers does King Edward supposedly have?
5. Remember that a **foil character** is a character who strongly contrasts another character. Explain how King Edward is a foil character for Macbeth.

FYI…

****(from *Elements of Literature* p. 505)

**The King’s Evil**

In Act IV, Scene 3, Malcom and Macduff, exiled from Scotland, discuss the characteristics of a good king and praise King Edward, who has given them political asylum in England. Edward, a saintly monarch known to history as “the Confessor,” was believed to have the gift of healing any of his subjects who suffered from an ailment known as the king’s evil, a kind of scrofula or tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands and primarily a disease of children. Long before Shakespeare’s time, the custom of being touched by the king was abandoned, but King James revived the practice and his successors continued it for a century or so. The eighteenth-century writer Samuel Johnson, scrofulous as a child, was one of the last English people to receive the royal touch.

The conversation between Malcom and Macduff not only compliments King James indirectly, but also implicitly condemns Macbeth, a kingly killer rather than a healer of children. Edward cures evil; Macbeth *is* evil.

1. Describe how Macduff reacts to the news that his family has been killed.
2. Whom does he blame for their death (besides Macbeth)?
3. What does Macduff swear to do at the end of this scene?