

Macbeth:

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

Macbeth Act 5, scene 5, 19–28

1. What is the actor speaking this soliloquy trying to say? Please write out a simple/modern version next to each line.
2. What does the repetition of tomorrow imply in the first line?
3. What is meant by “out, out brief candle”?
4. In line 6, a poor player is referenced. In Shakespearean times, a player was an actor. What is meant here?
5. What do the last three lines mean? “It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”
6. What is being said about life here? Be specific... your grade depends on it