

Macbeth

By the end of studying Act 1, Scene 6, I need to know: Malcom is trusting and naive. Lady Macbeth is deceiving King Malcom and being controlling and manipulative towards Macbeth.

Plot: King Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle with his followers. Lady Macbeth welcomes him.

<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p>	<p><b>temple-haunting martlet</b> (4) bird that nests in church porches  <b>loved mansionry</b> (5) favorite building  <b>jutty . . . vantage</b> (6) eaves, convenient corner  <b>pendent</b> (7) hanging  <b>procreant cradle</b> (7) nest  <b>haunt</b> (8) regularly visit  <b>love . . . love</b> (11) As king, I must always acknowledge my subjects' love even though doing so is a burden to me. But I must tell you that in taking trouble for me, you win God's thanks.  <b>All . . . house</b> (14) Even if I were to double my efforts on your behalf, it would be nothing compared with the honour you pay by visiting our house.  <b>cours'd</b> (21) chased  <b>purpose . . . purveyor</b> (21) intended to arrive before him  <b>holp</b> (23) helped  <b>in compt . . . audit</b> (26) on your account, to be assessed by you</p>
<p><b>Context</b></p>	<p>Lady Macbeth represents a powerful, influential woman who allows her desire to see her husband gain the throne dictate her decisions. She's responsible for suggesting that Macbeth kill Duncan to become the king of Scotland. Lady Macbeth doesn't play a stereotypical female role and is more concerned with politics and power than with childrearing or maintaining her estate. Shakespeare uses Lady Macbeth to demonstrate the control that ambitious, manipulative, seductive women hold over their husbands.</p> <p>Clearly, gender is out of its traditional order. This disruption of gender roles is also presented through Lady Macbeth's usurpation of the dominant role in the Macbeth's marriage; on many occasions, she rules her husband and dictates his actions.</p>
<p><b>Themes</b></p>	<p><b>Nature and the unnatural</b> - Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Banquo, Lennox, Macduff, Ross, and Angus arrive at Inverness. Duncan comments on the <u>sweetness of the air</u>. Banquo notes that martlets, a species of bird that usually nests in churches, have nested in the castle - Ironic that Duncan thinks the castle where he'll be murdered is beautiful. Also shows what beauty Macbeth loses when he gives in to his ambition.</p> <p><b>Manhood</b> - Lady Macbeth warmly greets the King and the thanes, though Macbeth is nowhere to be seen - At this point, the planned murder weighs more on Macbeth than on Lady Macbeth. It could also reinforce the control Lady Macbeth has; she doesn't trust Macbeth to keep his composure yet (after all, his 'face... is a book where men may read strange matters').</p>
<p><b>Deeper understanding</b></p>	<p><b>Fair is foul-</b></p> <p>'Fair and noble hostess,          We are your guest to-night'</p> <p>The adjective "fair," links to earlier in the play when the witches state "fair is foul," Duncan's attempted compliment uses dramatic to suggest to the reader that the supernatural is at work and that Duncan faces danger. It also reminds the audience of the differences between appearance and reality- Lady Macbeth appears 'fair', but is really 'foul'. The fact Duncan calls her 'hostess' reinforces the gendered expectations at the time and her role. Lady Macbeth's willingness to adopt this role ('our service in every point twice done') again reflects her façade [just like the servant in At 1 Scene 5]. She plays the role of housewife well. This is also reflected in the sound- 'hautboys' give off a deep oboe-like sound, which would be rather unsettling/ unnerving for the audience and is asynchronous with the pleasantries and celebration appearing on stage.</p> <p><b>Macbeth's motivations-</b> Duncan comments how they 'coursed [Macbeth] at the heels... but he rides well'; Duncan intended his horses to follow Macbeth, but he was too quick. Duncan assumes this was because of his love for Lady Macbeth that he wanted to be back soon, 'his great love, sharp as</p>

**Reading:**

Read to the punctuation. Ensure all stage directions are read.

Use the glossary for words you don't understand

Links across the play:

Act 2 Scene 3- Contrast this picture of delight with the imagery of hell that forms the substance of the Porter scene.

Act 1 Scene 5/ Act 2 Scene 3- Lady Macbeth adhering to expectations of women at that time as part of her manipulations/ façade.

	<p><b>his spur, hath help him home before us'</b>. This could be true; however, there could have been a more nefarious reasons Macbeth wanted to speak to Lady Macbeth before Duncan arrived. Perhaps he truly did desire to kill the king, after all he asked '<b>star [to] hide [their] fires'</b> in Act 1 Scene 4- to what extent would he have committed the murder without Lady Macbeth's intervention?</p>
<p><b>Quotes</b></p>	<p>Duncan's speech on his arrival at Inverness is heavy with dramatic irony: Not only is the "<b>seat</b>" (the surroundings) of the castle "<b>pleasant,</b>" but even the air is sweeter than that to which the king is accustomed. The presence of the martlet (a summer bird) serves to heighten the irony. As far as the king is concerned, the castle, from the outside at least, appears to be a paradise.</p> <p>The king's address to Lady Macbeth and her subsequent reply are full of the heightened language of formal introduction:  <b>"God 'ild you,"</b>  <b>"We rest your hermits (your servants) ever."</b>  <b>"See, see, our honoured hostess!"</b></p> <p>The stage directions that frame this scene are full of the pomp and ceremony of a royal visit. To a musical accompaniment, food and drink are transported from one side of the stage to the other. Although the audience does not see the revelry on stage, Shakespeare us to understand that the king is to be well entertained- it really helps to highlight the manipulation and slyness of Lady Macbeth, after all Macbeth has put this great night into '<b>[her] dispatch'</b></p> <p>Macbeth is notably missing from the scene  <b>'Where's the Thane of Cawdor?'</b></p>
<p><b>Terminology</b></p>	<p>Dramatic Irony -  Not only is the "<b>seat</b>" (the surroundings) of the castle "<b>pleasant,</b>"  <b>"See, see, our honoured hostess"</b> - She plans to kill him</p> <p>Hyperbole -  <b>"We rest your hermits (your servants) ever."</b></p> <p>Exclamatory  <b>"See, see, our honoured hostess!"</b></p> <p>Interrogative  <b>'Where's the Thane of Cawdor?'</b></p>