

By the end of studying Act 2 Scene 2 I need to know:

Plot: Lady Macbeth waits for Macbeth to return from committing the murder. Her mood is bold, and she boasts about killing the guards. Macbeth enters, carrying the bloodstained daggers and his guilt torments him. Lady Macbeth criticises Macbeth for failing to leave the daggers on the guards. She has to go back herself and plant them - Macbeth is too frightened. A knocking at the gate means they must quickly go to bed and pretend to be surprised.

Ideas: Macbeth is fraught following the murder of the king; Lady Macbeth attempts to gain control of the situation yet again.

<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>bellman - man who summoned condemned prisoners</p> <p>surfeited - drunk</p> <p>their charge -that is, Duncan</p> <p>second course - that is, at the banquet of life</p> <p>gild - paint them with golden blood</p> <p>incarnadine - make red</p>
<p>Context</p>	<p>Right of kings/chain of being as he is going against God by killing the king.</p> <p>Role of women because Lady Macbeth is entirely in control of herself and her husband.</p> <p>Role of men because Macbeth is terrified.</p> <p>Christianity- Macbeth's fear that he 'could not say amen' when Malcolm and Donalbain pronounces it suggests his fear that he is no longer Christian (as he has committed regicide). It's interesting to compare this to Act 1 Scene 4 where he asks 'stars hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires'- as he is effectively asking God to look away yet now worries about it. Also worthwhile comparing with Lady Macbeth in Act 5 Scene 1 as she expresses her concerns about going to hell, whereas by Act 5 Scene 3 and Act 5 Scene 5 Macbeth has accepted his fate.</p>
<p>Themes</p>	<p>Rights of kings Chain of being Role of women Role of Men</p>
<p>Deeper understanding</p>	<p>Shakespeare demonstrates the scale of the terrifying guilt that causes a great warrior like Macbeth to be reduced to abject fear.</p> <p>Lady Macbeth's character, by contrast, is shown by Shakespeare as steely and determined - where Macbeth flounders, Lady Macbeth perseveres.</p> <p>It's all an act- There are subtle hints here that Lady Macbeth's confidence is just an act. In soliloquy, she relates how she has 'drugged [the servants] possets that nature doth contend whether the live or die'; she admits that she has drugged the servants but does not know if she's accidentally killed them. This contrasts with the typical presentation of Lady Macbeth who always appears in control. This is also reinforced when she describes the 'owl that shrieked' and the 'crickets cry'- hyperbole is used to suggest that even the smallest of noises startles her. This contrasts with her apparent power where she asserts that was has made the servants drunk 'hath given [her] fire'. Finally, she returns the daggers after Macbeth accidentally brings them with him and acts like she is unfazed. However, in Act 5 Scene 1 she laments how 'all the perfumes of Arabia [wouldn't] sweeten [her] little hand'- she can still smell the stench of Duncan's blood. The fact she registers that smell as something horrid means that at the time too it must have been horrid. Therefore, there is an argument that Lady Macbeth is more frightened and impacted by the murder of Duncan than she reveals in this scene.</p>

Reading: Read to the punctuation.

Macbeth- returning from having just killed the king.

Lady Macbeth- is waiting for Macbeth to return from killing King Duncan.

King Duncan-has just been murdered by Macbeth.

Malcolm and Donalbain- Are sleeping in the chamber next to Duncan's; Macbeth heard them wake up, cry murder and pray after Macbeth killed Duncan.

Duncan's servants- Lady Macbeth has drugged these.

	<p>Blood on your hands- Macbeth laments, when he looks down at his hands that 'this is a sorry sight', relating the guilt he feels. He asserts says how 'all great Neptune's oceans [would not] wash this blood clean from [his] hand', referencing how he feels he will always feel guilt for the murder. This juxtaposes Lady Macbeth, who asserts 'a little water clears us of this deed'- the contrast here between Lady Macbeth's belief that only a small amount of water, to Macbeth believing no water would alleviate his guilt reflects the differences in their outward griefs and fears. Interestingly, for Lady Macbeth, a 'little' water is not enough- when she complains in Act 5 Scene 1 that 'all the perfumes in Arabia would not sweeten this little hand', which contains similarities to Macbeth's fears here. Does Lady Macbeth change or did she feel like that here as well?</p>
Quotes	<p>'That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold' 'I have done the deed' 'A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight' 'These deeds must not be thought after these ways; so. It will make us mad' 'Sleep no more" to all the house' 'Infirm of purpose! 'Will as great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?'</p>
Terminology	<p>Interrogatives Exclamatory sentences Short sentences - panic Long sentences - rambling /worried</p>

Links across the text:

Lady Macbeth loses control in Act 5 Scene 1- it's particularly worthwhile comparing her outward confidence here against how she acts in Act 5 Scene 1. A lot of the conversations in this scene are also retold, albeit in confusing fashion, in Act 5 Scene 1.