

By the end of studying **Act 3 Scene 3** I need to know;

**Plot:** The murderers, hired by Macbeth, attack Banquo and Fleance on a dark road leading to Macbeth's palace. Banquo is killed and Fleance flees.

**Ideas:** The Witch's prophecy can come true

Macbeth lacks control over people and situations despite being king

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<p><b>He...mistrust-</b> there is not reason for us to mistrust him  <b>Offices-</b> instructions  <b>To...just-</b> just as we were directed  <b>Lated-</b>belated  <b>Apace-</b> quickly  <b>Timely-</b> welcome  <b>Within...expectation-</b>on the list of expected guests  <b>About-</b> the long way around (to the stables)  <b>Way-</b> right thing to do  <b>Best...affair-</b> the more important part of the job, or the larger part of the job, or the larger part of the reward  <b>Hark-</b> listen  <b>Treachery-</b> an act of betrayal  <b>Fled-</b> ran away  <b>Apace-</b> hurrying</p>
<b>Context (To inform interpretation)</b>	<p><b>Chain of being-</b> This established a clear hierarchy of the natural world and people believed that, providing this natural hierarchy was sustained then everything in the world was balanced. They also believed that if, for some reason, it isn't sustained then the world plunges into chaos. It was generally accepted that it was impossible to move objects within the hierarchy without some sort of magic or supernatural occurrence.</p> <p><b>Religious beliefs-</b> Jacobean people were extremely religious and God fearing. They believed that everything was controlled by God and so they must behave properly so as not to anger the Gods.</p> <p>Shakespeare's audience would have known that Fleance's escape not only fulfilled the Witches' prophecies, but was a compliment to King James I, who traced his ancestry back to Banquo</p>
<b>Themes</b>	<p><b>Masculinity-</b> When Banquo tells Fleance "Thou may 'st revenge" shows that Banquo is more concerned with Fleance taking revenge, which has connotations of violence, than saving him.</p> <p><b>Children-</b> children represent the idea of the continuation of a family line. Macbeth has Banquo murdered in hopes of thwarting the Witches' prophecy that Banquo will sire a long line of kings. However, Fleance is able to escape being killed, leaving open the possibility he will one day take over the throne.</p> <p><b>Control-</b> Fleance escaping is proof that even though Macbeth is king, he does not have the control. This links with the theme of <b>supernatural</b> as the witches prophesised "Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none", and Fleance's escaped proves that, although Banquo is dead, the prophecy is still a possibility.</p> <p><b>Fate-</b> As the witches have prophesised Banquo's children will become kings, perhaps fate is what allowed Fleance to escape.</p>
<b>Deeper understanding</b>	<p>Macbeth's lack of control has become apparent in this scene as he has no control over Banquo's side of the prophecy. Even though Macbeth is king, he can't control everything that happens because the witches' prophecy originates from a supernatural force outside of his control. Appropriately, this scene takes place in the dark; the murderers carry lanterns and fail in their duty only when the light is accidentally knocked out and the entire stage is plunged in blackness. But this moment is also highly symbolic, foreshadowed at the end of Act II, when Ross remarks to the old man "By the clock 'tis day; / And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp." In <i>Macbeth</i>, the forces of darkness seem constantly at odds with those of light.</p> <p>In contrast to the dark, grisly nature of their job, the murderers' poetic speech is also comparatively light, particularly in the depiction of a traveler reaching the inn at sunset: "The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day; / Now spurs the lated traveller apace / To gain the timely inn" (5-7). One function of such poetry is to contrast the nature of word and deed. We have seen the same hypocrisy in Macbeth himself; he, too, is capable of poetry as well as murder.</p> <p>Another function is to remind the audience of the existence of natural order and the possibility of salvation. In an ideal world, a belated traveler may hope to find "timely" accommodation, however late the hour. But in a world where the natural order of things has been inverted and in which light is extinguished, as it is symbolically in this scene, that hope is also extinguished. Banquo is riding not toward hospitable welcome but toward his own extinction.</p>

**Reading:**

Fleance- Banquo's son

Third murderer- has been sent by Macbeth, the others don't know him but trust him as he knows all of the information

**Links across the text:**

"Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none." – Act 1 scene 3 when the Witches prophesise that Banquo's descendants will be kings.

"Now I see 'tis true;  
 For the blood-boltered  
 Banquo smiles upon me  
 And points at them for his."-  
 In Act 4 scene 1 Macbeth demands to see the apparitions, he sees Banquo with a crown and his children.

	<p>The escape of Fleance is the turning point or <i>peripeteia</i> in Macbeth's tragedy. Banquo's dying words, ordering Fleance to "revenge," remind the audience of the Witches' prophecy to Banquo: that he will be father to a line of kings, even though he himself will not attain the throne.</p>
<p><b>Quotes and references</b></p>	<p>"Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly! Thou may 'st revenge"- Banquo wants Fleance to escape so he can avenge his death.          "O slave!"- suggests that Banquo knows that the murderer has been sent by someone else.          "The son is fled." " Fleance escapes"- Shows that the witch's prophecy can still come true          "We have lost best half of our affair" – spoken by the second murderer highlighting how Feance escaping fulfils the witches prophecy</p>
<p><b>Terminology</b></p>	<p>Foreshadowing          Imperative          Declarative          Exclamatory sentences</p>