

By the end of studying **Act 5, Scene 2** I need to know;

Plot: Four Scottish lords - Lennox, Menteth, Angus and Caithness - have joined with Malcolm and the English army. They are camped at Burnam Wood preparing for battle near Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane.

Ideas: The witches' prophecy that Burnam Wood will come to Dunsinane is now starting to come true. Macbeth's power is ever more threatened as those who are 'loyal' are only loyal out of fear. Macbeth is now seen to be on the verge of madness.

Vocabulary	<p>Mortified man - dead men gentry - lords tyrant - oppressive ruler fortifies - strengthen Valiant Upbraid - find fault/scold</p> <p>Weal - swollen mark on skin</p>
Context	<p>Expectations of masculinity - In this scene, the expectations of Elizabethan men to demonstrate their 'manhood' through being a soldier is exemplified in the presentation of Young Siward preparing for battle. <i>'There is Siward's son,/And many unrough youths that even now/Protest their first of manhood.'</i></p> <p>The Divine Right of Kings - As Macbeth has gained the throne through wrongful means, we see him described here as a 'tyrant'. Elizabethans believed that this was what King or Queen would be as a ruler if this was the case. When the audience see his actions, and the fact that the lords are following him through fear, means that description holds true for Macbeth.</p>
Themes	<p>Power - Macbeth is losing more power. We are told that the lords who follow him only do so <i>'only in command'</i> demonstrating that they are not doing it because they honour and respect him. Therefore, his efforts to maintain his power through violence have, in fact, turned people against him and made him weak.</p> <p>Guilt - Macbeth is described in this scene as <i>'mad'</i> showing the impact of his guilt effecting his ability to rule effectively. The audience are also told that Macbeth feels <i>'his secret murders sticking on his hands.'</i> This demonstrates that his choice of actions to gain the throne are now causing his demise as his lords and soldiers no longer trust or support him.</p> <p>Supernatural/Fate - The witches' prophesy is, yet again, coming true. So, the only outcome at this point is that Macbeth's fate is sealed.</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>The language used in this scene is reminiscent of the language used in Act 3, sc 6 and Act 4, sc 3 where we see the alliances between Malcolm, England and the rebel Scots.</p> <p>We are introduced to Burnam Wood as the setting for this scene, therefore reminded of the third apparition's prophecy in Act 4, sc 1 that Macbeth's downfall would come when Burnam Wood moves to Dunsinane.</p> <p>Caithness offers one description of Macbeth as having <i>'valiant fury'</i> which echoes the words used by the Captain in Act 1, sc 2. But we are reminded here that this is not deserved, as it was in Act 1, as it arises from a <i>'distemper'd cause'</i>. We are then told that Macbeth can no longer <i>'buckle...within the belt of rule.'</i> Demonstrating that he has lost a lot of power, totally the opposite of what Macbeth desired and had ambitions for. The metaphor of clothing is used again when Caithness describes Macbeth's royal title <i>'Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe on a dwarfish thief.'</i> This shows that there is no respect for Macbeth and emphasises that people now fully believe he became King through wrongful means. There is also a link here to Act 1, sc 3 when Banquo is discussing Macbeth's new honours as <i>'strange garments'</i> which <i>'cleave'</i> (conform) to the body only if used constantly. So, Shakespeare continually uses the metaphor of clothing to demonstrate to the audience that Macbeth's title no longer 'fits' him.</p> <p>Finally, the tone of the rebel Scots is extremely strong. They now have uncompromising courage and again describe Scotland as a sick person, believing that the only cure is that of their spilled blood on the land as it's only defence.</p>

Reading:

Read to the punctuation.

Links across the text:

Act 1, sc 3 - Banquo discusses the new honours that Macbeth has been given.

Act 3, Sc 6 - Lennox reveals his doubts about Macbeth with a rebel lord. Macbeth is referred to as a 'tyrant'.

Act 4, Sc 1 - The witches prophesise the downfall of Macbeth.

Act 4, Sc 3 - Malcolm meets Macduff to discuss Macduff's concerns over Scotland under Macbeth's rule. Macbeth is referred to as an 'untitled tyrant'.

Quotes	<p>'Revenge burn in them'</p> <p>'Near Burnam Wood shall we meet them'</p> <p>'What does the tyrant?'</p> <p>'Some say he's mad, others...do call it valiant fury.'</p> <p>'He cannot buckle his distemper'd cause...within the belt of rule.'</p> <p>'secret murders sticking on his hands'</p> <p>'Those he commands, move only in command'</p> <p>'...his title hang loose about him, like a giant's robe upon a dwarfish thief.'</p> <p>'Meet we the medicine of the sickly weal...pour we in our country's purge each drop of us.'</p>
Terminology	<p>Metaphors - Use to show that Macbeth's title no longer 'fits' him.</p> <p>Capital letters at the start of each line - demonstrates power is now with the lords and rebels.</p> <p>Declaratives - used to emphasise the military tone of language spoken here.</p>