

By the end of studying Act 5 Scene 3 I need to know:

Plot: Macbeth is boastful and continues to wear his armour. The Doctor informs Macbeth that Lady Macbeth is resting.

Ideas: Macbeth is feeling incredibly confident about the upcoming battle; this stems from his belief that he can't be defeated thanks to the witches' manipulations.

Vocabulary	<p>English epicures - the self-indulgent English Sway- command goose - cowardly sere - dry fain - rather skirr - scrub oblivious - that brings oblivion physic - medicine cast the water - examine the urine (here, used metaphorically) rhubarb . . . drug - laxatives</p>
Context	<p>Chain of being</p> <p>The Audience- This play would have been performed to an English audience, therefore the criticising of the English would have further sided the audience against Macbeth (if it wasn't already that is).</p> <p>Expectations around masculinity- Yet again, Macbeth expresses those views around masculinity and the expectations upon proving manhood. His outward mockery of the servant for showing fear, arguably justifiable in this situation, reflects his concerns with how he appears. Ironically, this appearance and show of masculinity has overtaken the respect which he had that has now been lost.</p>
Themes	<p>Power</p> <p>Ambition</p> <p>Reliance of the supernatural</p> <p>Masculinity</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>In this scene Macbeth's tone is typically brazen and bold. We see that he fears nothing. The reports he has heard can have no consequence, given the prophecies of the three apparitions which he firmly believes to be true (despite the fact they came from the witches). Throughout this scene, any doubts he may have are quelled by his bold imperatives: "Bring me no more reports," "Fly, false thanes," [as well as the irony of him called the thanes false!]. We see a man completely self-assured, a "confident tyrant (which links to how he is described in the previous scene). These angry words do much to assert his own manhood, in contrast to the cowardice he perceives in others — not only his servant, whom he calls "cream-faced" and "lily-livered," but also the rebel soldiers, whom he insultingly refers to as "epicures" (that is, self-indulgent and lazy). This links to earlier within the play when Lady Macbeth questions his manhood and his masculinity is ultimately tested.</p> <p>Appearance of masculinity- Throughout the play, masculinity is considered extremely important- or at least the appearance of masculinity. He insults the servant who looks scared at being surrounded by ten thousand soldiers (as mentioned above). He orders him to 'prick they face and over-red they fear'. Here, he's ordering the servant to hide or cover his fear by pricking his face causing his white complexion to turn red- rather than ordering the soldier to be braver, he is only interested in the appearance of bravery. This is also shown through his commands to 'hang those [who] talk of fear'- as king, he demands that everyone put on an outward show of bravery, reinforcing the ideology of masculinity [at least in appearance] being important. His assertion that he's 'fight until [his] flesh be hacked' certainly creates the image of fearlessness that he wishes to present- even if it is then undermined in battle once he realises Macduff can defeat him.</p>

Reading:

Read to the end of punctuation

Characters:

- Macbeth
- Doctor
- Seyton
- Servant

Links across the text:

Act 1 Scene 5- Now, Macbeth no longer considers her a '**dearest partner in greatness**'.

Act 1 Scene 7/ Act 3 Scene 1- Consider views and expectations of masculinity here.

Act 3 Scene 6/ Act 4 Scene 3- Edward the confessor is described as having powers beyond the normal realm of man, which is what Macbeth requests here from the doctor.

Act 5 Scene 8- Macbeth's strength and outward appearance of masculinity is undermined the moment he realises Macduff was born by caesarean.

	<p>Relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth- This scene demonstrated the considerable shift between Macbeth; he asks the doctor 'how goes your patient?', the language distancing himself from her in contrast to prior in the play (Act 1 Scene 5) where he refers to her as 'dearest partner of greatness'. It demonstrates how he no longer relies upon Lady Macbeth. Equally, his dismissive response: 'cure her of that' reinforces his blasé concern over his wife's condition. Instead, he presses the doctor on a more concerning matter- finding a 'purgative drug [to] scour these English hence', he wants the doctor to create some drug to rid him of the English. This reflects Macbeth's reliance on the supernatural- he knows he cannot defeat them so requires supernatural intervention. It's possible here to contrast this with the healing powers of Edward the confessor-his invoked by divinity,</p>
<p>Quotes</p>	<p>"I will not be afraid of death and bane, Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane." - Bold imperative language, reference in future tense. Another indication he is reassuring himself rather than the reassurance of his country.</p> <p>"I cannot taint with fear" - Repetition of 'fear' this could link to the fact that he is subconsciously afraid. 'taint' implies that something cannot be removed - he could be referring to his own fear.</p> <p>"Fear not, Macbeth" - Reminding himself not to feel fear, arrogance of third person.</p> <p>"Therein the patient must minister to himself" - Shakespeare used a male pronoun to describe Lady Macbeth. This could link to Lady Macbeth's previous masculine behaviour.</p> <p>"Geese, villain!" - Implication that the servant is weak and can't be trusted</p> <p>"Give me my armour." - Imperative</p> <p>"Cure her of that." - Imperative to the doctor but also disregard for his wife - "her"</p> <p>"she is troubled with thick coming fancies,"</p>
<p>Terminology</p>	<p>Imperatives</p> <p>Dogmatic language</p> <p>Exclamatory sentences</p> <p>Metaphorical language</p> <p>Rhyming couplets</p> <p>Declarative language</p> <p>Third person - Macbeth talking about himself.</p> <p>Repetition</p> <p>Irony</p>