

By the end of studying **Act 5 Scene 4** I need to know:

Plot: The English army and the rebel Scottish thanes meet at Birnam Wood. Malcolm orders the soldiers to take down boughs from the tree to mask the number of soldiers marching upon Dunsinane- thus fulfilling the witches' prophecy.

Ideas: Malcolm's ingenuity, and uniting of England and Scotland, will make him a good king.

Vocabulary	<p>Bough [noun]- the main branch of a tree Speculative [adjective]- assumptive, not based on full knowledge (speculate [verb]; speculation [noun]) Endure [verb]- to suffer patiently Industrious soldiership- hard working and diligent soldiers- Arbitrate [verb]- to reach a judgement</p>
Context	<p>Divine Right of Kings- A legitimate king who is ordained by God will make a worthy king- Malcolm's intellect, and the respect he commands in this scene implies he will make a good king.</p>
Themes	<p>Power and authority</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>The good king Malcolm- Malcolm opens the scene asserting how he hopes 'I hope the days are near at hand that chambers will be safe'- meaning people will be able to sleep safely, secure from being murdered. This establishes Malcolm as the saviour of Scotland- protecting the country from the tyrant Macbeth. His order for every soldier to 'hew him down a bough [to] shadow the numbers of our host' is an intelligent move and portrays Malcolm as a good commander and leader. His ability to inspire respect of English and Scottish alike also juxtaposes Macbeth's here- Malcolm describes how where 'there is advantage to be given, both more and less have given him the revolt' meaning Macbeth's soldiers rebel and escape at any chance they get. This reflects how Macbeth's men, unlike Malcolm's, aren't loyal to him- he only inspires through fear. His sentiment is one that had previously been shared by Angus in Act 5 Scene 2- 'his men move only in command, nothing in love'. Interestingly, our first encounter with Malcolm is of one not well versed in battle- as the bleeding captain 'fought against [his] captivity', unlike Macbeth. Here, Shakespeare again explores the dichotomy between these two characters: perhaps a good fight does not make a good leader.</p>
Quotes	<p>'I hope the days are near at hand that chambers will be safe'- Malcolm asserts that his reign will bring peace and safety. 'hew him down a bough [to] shadow the numbers of our host'- Malcolm orders the soldiers to camouflage their approach to Dunsinane. This fulfils the prophecies of the witches but also display how intelligent Malcolm is, he can command armies well. 'there is advantage to be given, both more and less have given him the revolt'- Macbeth's men are abandoning them when they get the opportunity to; this reveals how they aren't loyal to him and how he has not commanded their respect. This draws a direct contrast to Malcolm and further establishes the legitimacy of Malcolm.</p>

Reading:

Malcolm- Son of Duncan, has gathered an English army to take the throne from Macbeth,

Macduff- Thane of Fife, fled Scotland to find Malcolm.

Siward- Malcolm's cousin, and English Lord.

Menteith, Caithness, Angus, Lennox, Ross- Rebel thanes now supporting Malcolm.

Links across the text:

Act 1 Scene 2- Whilst the audiences' first impressions of Malcolm, having to be rescued by the sergeant, are not ideal by Act 5 Scene 4 he has redeemed himself.

Act 4 Scene 1- The witches told Macbeth he would never 'vanquished be until great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come against him'

Act 5 Scene 2- Angus describes how Macbeth's men move 'only in command, nothing in love'.

Terminology	<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>
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