

By the end of studying **Act 5 Scene 7** I need to know;

Plot: On the battlefield, Macbeth fights with confidence and arrogance because no man born of woman can harm him. He kills Lord Siward's son.

Ideas: Macbeth is blinded by the prophecy that no man born of woman can harm him, even though Birnam Wood actually did come to Dunsinane Hill (the first prophecy).

Vocabulary	<p>Bearlike- refers to bear baiting Abhorred- disgusting and hated Tyrant- a cruel and oppressive ruler. Slain- killed</p>
Context (To inform interpretation)	<p>CHAIN OF BEING- 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. This scene shows how the world has indeed plunged into chaos as the thanes are fighting against their king.</p> <p>MASCULINITY- Men, during the Jacobean era, were expected to be brave, in control and strong. This can be seen in Siward who fights against Macbeth despite being young and inexperienced compared to him. Macbeth, however displays a decline in his masculinity.</p> <p>Bear-baiting- Through Macbeth's words, that he is 'tied to a stake' and 'cannot fly' but must 'bearlike.. fight the course', Shakespeare is referencing the Medieval practice of bear-bating. This would involve tying a bear to a stake for it to be attacked and devoured by dogs. The reference here, coming from Macbeth, reveals Macbeth's own false belief in his power and superiority. Bears were tied to a stake because they were too wild and dangerous- hence, Macbeth appears to see himself as too wild, skilled and dangerous a fighter- so must be cornered, like a bear, in order to be defeated. It also further suggests Macbeth's inability to recognise his own faults and failures- he appears to victimise himself here, rather than accept his role in murdering Duncan.</p>
Themes	<p>SUPERNATURAL- Although the first apparition has come true, Macbeth still fights with confidence and arrogance as he still believes that no man born of woman can harm him.</p> <p>WAR- We see war in the opening and the ending of the play. The opening shows Macbeth at his strongest and bravest, whereas the war at the end highlights Macbeth's weakness. Here, Macbeth is weak as he has no companion, no one to support him and he has no control against the prophecy. In this scene, his weakness is also highlighted by his killing of Siward's son, who is young and weak. This shows that Macbeth doesn't have the support and strength to fight men like himself.</p> <p>APPEARANCE VS REALITY (DECEIT)- The witch's prophecy has given Macbeth a false sense of confidence and arrogance that no one can hurt him. He takes this prophecy at face value, rather than considering the real meaning- even though the first prophecy came true.</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>Macbeth's naivety becomes apparent in this scene as he still believes that no one can harm him, the prophecy which gave him a false sense of security. Macbeth is very proud of killing Siward, who is a young boy and therefore is weaker and less able to defend himself, highlighting Macbeth's loss of power and strength. This contrasts with the Macbeth that was presented at the start of the play. This also suggests how Macbeth's bravery and masculinity has diminished throughout the play- somewhat ironic since Lady Macbeth's emasculation of him in Act 1 Scene 7 appears to have been the cause of his eventual agreement to kill the king.</p> <p>Malcolm's role as rightful king is further legitimised through how quickly his men take the castle- Siward's tells him the castle is 'gently rendered' and how 'little is to do'; Malcolm himself asserts that Macbeth's men now fight alongside them: 'we have met with foes that strike beside us'. This reinforces Ross' previous statement that Macbeth's men 'move only in loyalty, nothing in love'- and so, upon seeing Malcolm (the rightful king) they switch sides to Macbeth. Shakespeare presents us, therefore, with a unifying king who inspires trust and loyalty. This further reinforces the Chain of Being- Malcolm is the person who will restore it.</p>
Quotes and references	<p>'Bearlike' is a reference to bear baiting, where bears were chained to a post and tortured by dogs. A bear is a strong and powerful animal but chained to a post it's powerless. This could suggest Macbeth's acknowledgement of danger or death.</p> <p>"The devil himself could not pronounce a title More hateful to mine ear."- shows the hatred that Macbeth gets.</p> <p>"weapons laugh to scorn, brandished by man that's of a woman born."- highlights Macbeth's arrogance.</p> <p>"I cannot strike at wretched kerns, whose arms Are hired to bear their staves. Either thou, Macbeth, Or else my sword with an unbattered edge I sheathe again undeeded" – Shows Macduff's desperation to defeat Macbeth.</p>

- Reading:**
- In the midst of battle Macbeth is cornered but continues to fight as he takes some comfort in the prophecy
 - Macbeth kills Siward's son and declares that he must be born from a woman
 - Macduff pursues Macbeth even though he tried to flee
 - Siward and Malcolm make their way towards the castle.

Links across the text:

"And you all know, security
 Is mortals' chiefest enemy."-
 Hecate, in act 3 scene 5,
 declares that Macbeth's
 'security'
 (confidence/arrogance) is
 his enemy and in this
 scene, we can see that his
 confidence in the prophecy
 leads him to continue
 fighting.

Terminology	