

Group A – Lady Macbeth rejects her feminine instincts

Focus on Lady Macbeth's opening speech in this scene.

- In this speech, Lady Macbeth calls on 'spirits' to take away all of her feminine instincts. Identify all of the quotations that show this.
- Now **unpack** each of the quotations you've highlighted – what sort of language is used? What is the effect?
- Do you notice any interesting examples of imperatives, alliteration, metaphors, personification...? Anything else? What is the effect?
- **Extension:** considering gender roles in Shakespearean times, how might a contemporary audience have responded to Lady Macbeth's speech? Link your ideas to specific quotations.

Group B – Lady Macbeth’s relationship with Macbeth

How does Shakespeare use **language** to show...

- The strong bond between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?
- The influence Lady Macbeth has over Macbeth?
- Look out for imperatives, declaratives, similes, metaphors, and any other language features you think are note-worthy.
- **Extension:** what do you notice about the final three lines of the scene? (Think about the use of rhyme.)

Group C – the semantic field of death

- Highlight all of the words/phrases that relate to death
- Highlight all of the words/phrases that relate to the supernatural
- What is the effect of these words and phrases? What do they reveal about Lady Macbeth?
- **Extension:** How might an audience respond to Lady Macbeth in this scene?