

Teaching notes

This is a group investigation task following a reading of the play. You will need to split your class into six teams, each looking at a specific scene. It works well to mix the ability within each group. Each group should have a copy of the task sheet, and be allocated one of the following scenes:

- a. Act 1 Scene 4
- b. Act 1 Scene 6
- c. Act 2 Scene 4
- d. Act 3 Scene 4
- e. Act 3 Scene 6
- f. Act 4 Scene 3

Some sample (tried and tested) responses are shown below, but of course your students might come up with other ideas, and certainly other interpretations.

- **Act 1 Scene 4:** Duncan was a good, kind and gentle king. Decision for Malcolm to be next in line ‘we will establish our estate upon our eldest Malcolm’. Macbeth is disappointed ‘that is a step on which I must fall down or o’erleap’.
- **Act 1 Scene 6:** Duncan is a religious man who is kind and polite to everyone. Dramatic irony here: showing kindness of Duncan when we know he’s going to be killed makes the audience hate Macbeth ‘See, see, our honoured hostess ... bid God yield us for your pains’.
- **Act 2 Scene 4:** Macbeth has become king and disrupted the chain of being. An owl kills a falcon (one of the results) another disruption to the chain of being.
- **Act 3 Scene 4:** Macbeth appears to be noble; at the banquet there is dramatic irony because the audience knows he is a murderer.
- **Act 3 Scene 6:** ‘Their king that he prepares for some attempt of war’ shows Macbeth wants to prove himself; he is bloodthirsty.
- **Act 4 Scene 3:** ‘wiped the black scruples reconciled my thoughts’: Malcolm acts cautiously; he is tactical and plans ahead.

After your groups have finished working on their scene, remember to take feedback (through a jigsaw or envoy task, or by feeding back so that other groups can take notes) to create revision notes.