In your group, you need to find references to kings and kingship in a specific scene within the play, and analyse how the theme develops.

Complete the table to record your group's research. An example is shown to help you.





Reference to kingship	Quotation(s)	Explanation(s)
Reference to kingship King Duncan - makes confident and quick decisions	'No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive Our bosom interest. Go pronounce his present death and with his former title greet Macbeth' (Act 1 Scene 2)	Explanation(s) Makes the decision to reward Macbeth by making him a noble. Uses imperatives (and is immediately obeyed) which show his authority.

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.