

MACBETH: THE MURDER



A REPORT

News of the murder of the King would have spread rapidly among the population of Scotland. Indeed at the start of Act II scene iv, it is already known to the Old Man, who should be seen as a representation of the common man. The details known by the population would be sketchy and would not be the intricate detail that the audience knew.

Your task is to design the front page of the 'Inverness Chronicle' for the day after the murder in 1040. Its lead story will of course be the death of the king, but it will also contain details on: the disappearance of Malcolm and Donalbain; the killing of the guards by Macbeth; Macbeth's succession to the throne at Scone and the strange events of the previous days and nights. Using the questions below as prompts, construct the front pages of the paper. Your work will receive marks for detail, technical accuracy and presentation.

Death of the king

- Suitable headline!
- How was it carried out? (I, vii, 61-72 and II, iii, 99-103)
- Where will Duncan be buried? (II, iv, 32-35)
- Reactions of different characters – Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Lennox.
- Views of the guards' reasons. (II, iv 22-27)

Macbeth's killing of the guards

- When and why did he do it? (II, iii, 104-116)

The disappearance of Malcolm and Donalbain

- Why do people think that they have run away? (II, iv, 25-27)
- What are the rumours about where they have gone to? (II, iii, 135-136)

The next king?

- Reasons why the throne has to be filled so quickly?
- Where will the investiture take place? (II, iv, 29-32)
- The qualities that Macbeth has to be king. (I, iii, 89-100)

Strange events

- What strange events have happened in the days before the murder? (II, iv, 1-20)
- What was the weather like on the night of the murder? (II, iii, 52-51)
- Why did some consider the storm strange? (II, iii, 52-61)

Remember to set your page out like that of a newspaper. Do not simply answer the questions and then join them together into paragraphs but try to construct an article that looks and reads like a newspaper. You are reporting the story as it is known to characters in the play so you do not know that Macbeth committed the murder. You must write in a formal style and may adopt the type of language used in the play if you wish. On no account can you use abbreviations.