



2. 1 Macbeth sees an imaginary dagger

Audience

Will they see Duncan in this scene?

What does *fairest show* mean – are we going to see a party

Who else is going to be in the scene

Are going to see the death of Duncan on stage?

Setting

Location: outside Macbeth's Castle

Conditions: a dark sky, there is no moon and no stars – it's very dark

Time: *How goes the night boy* it night time. This is after the party with Duncan. Banquo is tired. Note the relationship between the moon and the bell at the end of the scene

Space: outside, Fleance feels safe – he exits with no need for caution

Character

Status: Macbeth, Banquo, Fleance and Servant – the diamond that Duncan has given Banquo to pass on creates more power

See: Macbeth sees a dagger, Banquo sees his friend

Envy: Macbeth envies the fact that no one else can see the dagger

Predicament: wants to deny his mind is seeing the dagger/all he can do is follow through his plan

Stakes: Macbeth – his future, Duncan's love

Identity/unidentity: Macbeth – stable friend/deluded subject

Language 33 - 64

Pre-scene: the final scene between Duncan and Macbeth's court before he goes to bed

Under poem: pair them up – me/clutch, still/sensible.....senses/still, blood/thing.....knell/hell – why are the images in pairs – the murder has been planned by the Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

Pronoun: Macbeth uses *I* seven times and only refers to Duncan as *he* at the end of the speech once. What is he frightened of?

Iambic: what does the regularity of the iambic feet tell us about his resolve/determination focus

Hear: How his language becomes more fantastical the nearer the actual reality of killing Duncan becomes.

Impact

See: a King hallucinating that he can see a dagger. We can only see him not the dagger – bear this in mind for the banquet scene

Remind: the supernatural, the imaginary

Think: is he a witch, has he gone mad

Feel: concerned, frightened, enthralled

React: Do they want him to kill the king – this would make them guilty of Regicide by default or do they want him to be stopped. If he is stopped then where will the play go next?