



2.3 The murdered Duncan is discovered

Audience

Who do they think is knocking at the door to get into the castle?
Who is the porter? Is the stage manager to the 'play' we are about to see?
Why are we meeting this character now?
What is he going to tell the audience?

Situation

Locations: Are we in the courtyard of the Castle? Think about a stage within a stage.
Time: The second cock crowing. What time in the morning is it?
Conditions: The weather has changed with 'chimney's blown down' and 'some say the earth was feverous and did shake'. What is happening outside the castle and how does this reflect on what's going on inside the castle.
Space: This public space, looked over by the porter – he is the stage manager of the scene/play?

Character

Status: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth start the scene with the power.
See: Macbeth sees the men who may find him out, Lady Macbeth see's men without a leader
Envy: Macbeth envies the men's ignorance. Lady Macbeth envies
Predicament: Macbeth wants to tell them what has happened but all he can do is 'act' shocked. Lady Macbeth wants to get rid of them all she can do get their attention
Stakes: Macbeth - gain their belief. Lady Macbeth - gain their attention
Identity: Macbeth the avenging subject Lady Macbeth the helpless wife. Donalbain and Malcolm orphaned princes and distrustful brothers.

Language

Pre-scene: Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have been washing their hands, changing their clothes before they play out the following scene. Have they been rehearsing the scene?
Under poem: *furious/ man/ love/ Duncan/ blood/nature/murderers/daggers/refrain/heart* what do all these words tell us about Macbeths' state of mind at this point.
Iambic: The line 109 has 13 syllables and the 119 has 8 syllables. Why the difference? Is Macbeth overacting?
Pronouns: Unlike the last scene he is over using *his, his, his, their and their*. Why the change?

Impact

See: a stunning performance by the husband and wife. They equivocate beautifully.
Remind: Macbeth, like Oedipus, claims to 'put on manly readiness' to find the murderers of the King.
Think: about the witches' prophecy as whether it will come true
Feel: the audience know as much as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Does this excite or horrify them?
React: do they want them to get away with it.