



4.1 Macbeth returns to the three witches and is given a series of riddles, warnings and apparitions.

The audience

What will the witches reveal this time?

How will Macbeth respond to the witches?

What will he do with the witches' information?

Setting

Location: the witches are boiling a cauldron in the middle of the space

Conditions: Thunder Pathetic Fallacy to heighten their malevolent nature.

Time: Not specified, but suggestion of darkness, a motif in the play used to cover sinister and immoral acts.

Space: This is the witches space.

Character

Status: The witches, then Macbeth

See: Macbeth sees the powerful witches casting spells The witches see an unsettled king/man

Envy: Macbeth envies the witches dark and omniscient nature, their ability to see beyond the natural world

Predicament: Macbeth wants to control the witches but he has to listen to them.

Stakes: Macbeth needs kingship and possibly life. The witches need to gain Macbeth's trust and equivocate him.

Identity/ Unidentity: Macbeth confident king/ vulnerable and insecure in the witches' presence

Language:

Pre Scene: Lennox and fellow lords discuss the deaths of Banquo and Duncan. Both refer to Macbeth as a tyrant. Suspicions arise. Both hope that help will come for their *suffering country*

Under poem: *Pot/ Bubble/ bubble/ bubble/ Cauldron/ bubble/ Good/*. Under poem suggests witches power to summon evil with their potions. Also, appearance vs. reality with the inclusion of good.

Pronoun: Macbeth (you x 5 me,) Macbeth desperate to maintain power against the witches. Witches respond in imperative commands, they have the dominant power.

Iambic: 22-34 The witches use 7 syllables in a line, what does this tell us about them? They have their own rhythm, their own rules.

Hear: Macbeth's desperation to be more powerful than the witches *Answer me*.

tell me Has he become too full of hubris? Thinks he can control even the most sinister beings?

Impact:

See: A vulnerable king who is desperate and tormented for answers in order to maintain power. He has committed to the dark side.

Remind: Of the witches opening scene, of the dark immorality of the witches as devilish species (1606 audience would be very aware of this)

Think: What will happen to Macbeth? Tension begins to build

Feel: shocked and horrified at Macbeth's duplicity, ending with his decision to *surprise the castle of Macduff*, Macduff is a loyal and honourable thane.