



## 4.2 Lady Macduff's child is murdered

### Audience

Just been reminded of Macbeth's links to the supernatural and his role as a pawn in a game  
Now looking for a hero to combat Macbeth's tyranny  
A sense of inevitability around Macbeth's downfall

### Setting

**Location:** Assume it is Macduff's castle *His mansion* in Fife

**Conditions:** Lady Macduff is without her husband in the castle

**Time:** The child is still awake so in the day time?

**Space:** The Macduff' space

### Character

**Status** Ross, Lady Macduff, Her son and the murderers

**See:** Lady Macduff sees her husband's son, Ross see his friend's wife

**Envy:** Lady Macduff envies her son's lack of knowledge, The son envies his mother's control

**Predicament:** Lady Macduff wants to hold her ground but she has to think about leaving

**Stakes:** Lady Macduff needs to gain her respect, Ross needs to gain his masculinity

**Identity/unidentity** – hurt wife/powerful woman

### Language

**Pre-scene:** how do the messengers know that the murderers are coming to the castle

**Under poem:** 6-14 *babes/place, not/wren, fight/owl, love/flight* and *reason* – bird imagery

**Pronoun:** 6-14 *His/He* is repeated 5 times rather than my husband or lord – why is this?

**Iambic:** All 10 syllables apart from 9 and 14 which has 7 *so runs against nature* – why here?

**Hear:** the dialogue between mother and son and how short the lines are

### Impact

**See:** a child being murdered on stage

**Remind:** the attempted murder of Fleance earlier in the play

**Think:** what depths will Macbeth go to

**Feel:** powerlessness, outrage, pity

**React:** they want this tyrant brought to justice